Maple Orchard

An Independent Apple User Group Publication

LOGIC
An Apple User Group

March/April 1990
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TENTH ANNIVERSARY

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Maple Orchard

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BILL BRYANT, PRESIDEN T OF LOGIC

This is my first public message as Logic's President, and I would like to take the opportunity to say "hello" to those out of town and overseas members whom we never get to greet face to face. As some of you may be aware, there have been a number of important changes within Logic over the past few months. The most significant thing I have to report is the resignation of our General Manager, Sid Stulberg.

Sid resigned amid some controversy late in January. While I do not want to dwell upon the details here, I think that everyone associated with the affair has felt profound ambivalence about Sid's departure. I share these feelings myself, and I want to personally thank Sid Stulberg for the enormous contribution he made to Logic, both as General Manager and as a tireless and enthusiastic volunteer. Those seriously interested in the details surrounding Sid's resignation may request copies of the Board minutes for February which contain the pertinent correspondence.

Logic is a non-profit association which runs on volunteer labour supported by a modest budget from memberships and disk sales. Goodwill, enthusiasm, a willingness to donate one's time without pecuniary return - these are intangibles that never show up in a ledger or on a balance sheet. During Sid's tenure, the management style and general tone of Logic drifted progressively in a direction more appropriate to a business operation.

With Sid's departure, efforts have been made to restore more of a balance between what Logic takes on and the volunteer resources available to meet these goals. The General Manager's position has been replaced by the paid position of Club Secretary. Our new secretary, Heather, is a paid professional who acts under instruction from the board and has no direct involvement in the creation of policy. Some other day to day functions which were gradually centralized in Sid's position have been distributed to member volunteers.

I feel that these changes reflect the best interests of LOGIC over the long term. Though I strongly support a stance of fiscal responsibility, we cannot lose sight of the fact that what brings us together as a user group is an interest in computers, enthusiasm and the desire to share our knowledge and experience with others. While a sound balance sheet is necessary to make this kind of exchange possible, it can be deadly when viewed as a benchmark for success.

Another important change has been the aquisition of the new Kodak Datashow projection system. This equipment was donated to LOGIC by CorpTech Systems, a Toronto Macintosh dealer, through the efforst of our treasurer, Morley Goddard. Those who were deterred from attending meetings in the past by our old "green monster" might consider coming out and looking the new projection system over. It has been in use at four meetings thus far and has performed flawlessly. This equipment broadens the scope of presentations which we can entertain and the Mac and Apple II committees have plans to address these possibilities in the coming months.

We have a new BBS! Our failing Apple II hardware has been replaced by a Mac+ running RedRyder Host with two lines and a 140 meg Rodime Hard drive. Deciding upon appropriate hardware and software was a difficult decision but a good part of the final decision hinged on administrative concerns. As a volunteer organization, we need to be in the position to attract volunteers should our present sysops decide to move on or change the nature of their involvement with LOGIC.

Protree Elite was a program no longer under development, with which our sysops laboured for years without any documentation to speak of. RedRyder Host is a program under continual development with a large user base, up to date documentation and a definite future. Given the importance of our BBS, the board felt it essential that we have hardware and software that could attract and sustain the interests of volunteers in an area which is especially demanding of time and technical expertise.

We have had problems with the BBS which are gradually being ironed out as changes are made to both hardware and software. There have been many complaints about the changes from a vocal minority of members. The decision to go with the Mac+ and RedRyder Host was not an easy one, but the board felt that it best reflected LOGIC's longterm interests as an organization reliant upon volunteers.

Maple Orchard has undergone some minor transformations as a result of the board's decision that we focus upon its role as a content oriented club newsletter. Efforts had been made in the past to market it as a general circulation periodical. Moving into this very competitive domain made an unrealistic demand on LOGIC's human and financial resources. We have fallen behind somewhat in our 1990 production schedule, but the next issue should put us back on track. Even with the minor changes in paper weight and cover stock, the change in visual appearance is slight, perhaps because desktop publishing has reached the point where the technology transcends the medium. Special accolades to Ken Cohen, Rob Whitleock and Glen Denyer who have managed to "hold the fort" and get the first two issues of this year out while the board contended itself with more critical short term matters.

Blair Angus and I attended the CAUG conference, "Connections 90", March 24th. While attendance was limited, the interaction was "dynamic" and we had the opportunity to explore a great many issues affecting user groups in depth. We will convene again at the end of April or early May to attempt to hammer out a workable constitutional framework for a national Apple user group association - in effect, a "user group of user's groups". While there are many obstacles to the emergence of such an organization, everyone in attendance agreed that there was a need for more communication and exchange of information between Apple user groups and that a nationally based entity to present the interests of users to Apple Canada would be

desirable. David Wright of Apple Canada fielded questions about the issues raised in the morning session as candidly as was possible for a corporate representative.

My experience at the CAUG conference has me thinking about many issues associated with the relationship between Apple, dealers and user groups. Great changes appear to be taking place within Apple itself. Before Christmas a large portion of the marketing department at Apple Canada was let go, and various publications report other changes in personnel and speculations about Apple's future directions. I even had the opportunity to be "quoted out of context" myself in a recent issue of Macleans. All of this promotes speculation and rumours which we are all familiar with - the demise of the Apple II, the new "low end" Mac, an upgraded IIGS, HyperCard for the IIGS, etc. Apple must balance a number of unpredictable factors on the cutting edge of a rapidly changing field. Dealers must contend with the vagaries of market forces and Apple appears to be trying to nudge them toward the lucrative training and consulting market.

Many users have expressed concerns about lack of support for older Apple II models, limited hardware development of the IIgs and the high price of additions to the Mac product line. I think we all must bear in mind that a computer is a prototypical "prosumer" product. It is much more like a hammer - a tool used to do other things undefined at the point of purchase - than a rug or can of soup. The "value added by use" component of a computer is a great percentage of the computer's real value.

I increasingly come to believe that this "value added by use" dimension is the one domain where the user group is sovereign. Apple may develop hardware and dealers may market it, but it is the end user who is on the cutting edge of the social revolution which is gradually transforming how we work, play, learn and relate to one another. Each of us can point to social, educational and business connections which cut across traditional boundaries, relationships created and sustained through our involvement with a technology still in its infancy. Ultimately, the form and texture of these changes lies beyond the control of Apple or any dealer network.

User groups have a special and central role to play in all of this. Even if technical innovation ceased, or slowed to an imperceptible level, the growing tide of social change associated with the spread of computers in society would continue unabaited. With all of this in mind, I feel we have all been guilty of focusing too sharply upon the themes of technical innovation and product announcements. As users, we confuse "support" for computer use with regular product and upgrade announcements. As a user group, we are not constrained by the ferocious market forces that swirl about a corporate giant like Apple or the problems of trying to run a dealership in the economic matrix of a local economy. This gives us the opportunity to focus upon issues and concerns which others cannot address and to do so with the luxury of indifference to the bottom line.

I want to close my remarks by reaffirming LOGIC's strength as a non-profit volunteer organization and call upon our membership to give serious thought to the issue of what "support" for a user group by Apple Canada or local dealers might look like. We have returned to our originating mandate by dismantling the centralized General Manager's position, acquired a new state of the art projection system and we have put in place a BBS system with great potential for future development. The infrastructure is in place - what is needed is some critical thought and initiative from our growing membership. I would welcome your comments on the issues I have raised here and I look forward to incorporating them into my own thoughts about LOGIC's future directions.

FROM THE EDITORS

BY ROB WHITELOCK AND GLEN DENYER

Putting together a user group newsletter like Maple Orchard tends to be a bit of a scramble (although we hope it doesn't look like it was a scramble!). To make it less so, we have decided to build the issues in Volume 10 around themes. The theme for this issue is Telecommunications, and we have a number of articles, from members and from the MNS News Service, related to that theme. Future themes (tentatively) will be Tools and Utilities, an Anniversary Issue, Education and Christmas - Entertainment and Games. We hope you will find it easier to write if you have a sense of what is wanted, so please get busy! Deadlines for submissions will be posted on the General roundtable of the LOGIC BBS. If you do not use the BBS, you can contact any of the editors through the LOGIC telephone number or by mail.

The need for articles is particularly serious for the Apple II. This is perhaps another indication of the malaise that seems to surround this workhorse, from Apple Inc. on down. Maple Orchard is an Apple User Group publication, and we want to try to balance our Macintosh and Apple II materials as much as possible. Apple II users, please read Stephen Brown's message, and consider getting involved in keeping your machine alive and supported!

Can't think of something to write? RELAX!!! Contact Glen Denyer or Rob Whitelock if you have an idea but don't know what to do. We're always interested in reviews of new products that you have been using, or nifty ways of doing things that you have figured out. Never assume that, if you know how to do something, everyone else does!

Don't forget the human dimension. If you have an interesting story, if anything humorous (or even tragic) has happened to you concerning a computer, write about it and send it in to us. Don't feel that you have to do this by modem. Many Logic members do not use the bulletin board but rely on the magazine and meetings for contacts. If you are one of those and wish to write for the magazine, write it out neatly or type it and send it to Logic c/o G. Denyer, Box 236, Claremont ON, LOH 1E0.

This issue offers reviews and comments on the major information services. There is also an offer from America Online to all user group members for free subscription kits (Canadian users can call COLLECT at 703-883-0788 to request the kits, in Apple II or Macintosh formats). Finally, Geoff Gaherty and Blair Angus have provided detailed information for Mac and Apple II users who want to access the new LOGIC bulletin board. Enjoy!

LOGIC HELP LIST

LOGIC maintains a listing of members who are willing to help other members with hardware/software questions. Please observe the following rules when calling a LOGIC Helper:

- Phone during the evening hours, (7-9 pm) unless otherwise specified.
- You must be a LOGIC member (and don't be offended if you're asked!).
- Remember that they are volunteers. At worst, the advice is worth what it costs you. At best, it can more than pay the cost of your membership.

More volunteers are needed NOW. If you have a particular interest or area of expertise, please consider sharing it with others. Call our secretary at (416) 323-0828 and let her know. She'll pass it on to the editor.

Blair Angus, 281-2920
Apple IIGS, Telecommunications, Applesoft Programming, LOGIC BBS.

Geoff Gaherty, 922-3399
(9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) Macintosh, Telecommunications, File transfers, LOGIC BBS.

Tom Klein, 783-4952
Communications, Hardware (elementary), printers, new users.

Jim Low, 690-3943
Geneaology (Family Roots), AppleWorks (database/word processing only), AppleSoft.

Sid Stulberg, 245-1549
Publish It! (For the II family).

Peter Pundy, 754-0009
Mac, PC enquiries
7-9 pm

Duncan McLaren, 253-5984
Excel, MS-Works, other business formats, 6-9 pm

Ron Harding, 831-8996
Apple IIGS, AppleWorks 3.0
M-F 6-10pm; Sat/Sun Noon-6pm

Ronald Thompson, 728-1905
AppleWorks, MouseTalk, Access II, Elementary PC problems, Lotus 1-2-3
6-9pm

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

If you have a special interest, then one of LOGIC's SIGs may be for you. Here is a list of the current SIGs and their chairpersons. If you have a special interest not covered by one of these then perhaps you would like to start a new SIG. If so, please let one of the Directors know.

Appleworks	**Ian Harvie 266-6647**
Telecommunications	**Don Epstein 881-0532**
The Apple IIgs	**Blair Angus 281-2920**
Hardware	**Tom Klein 783-4952**

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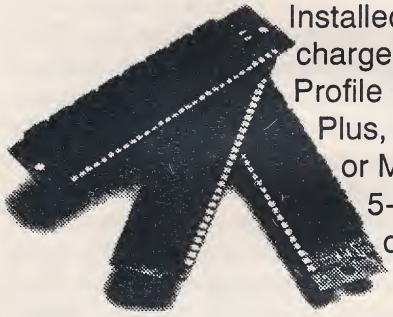

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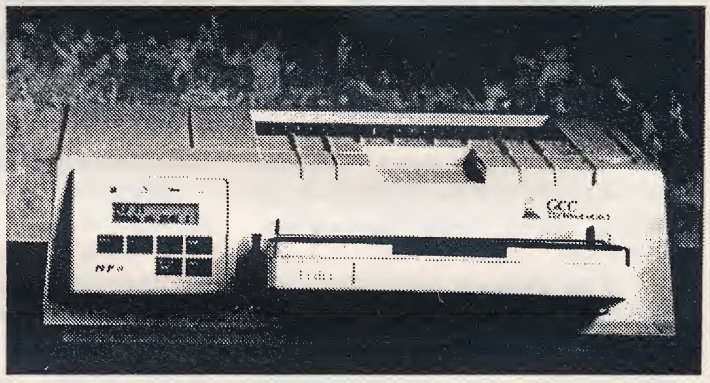

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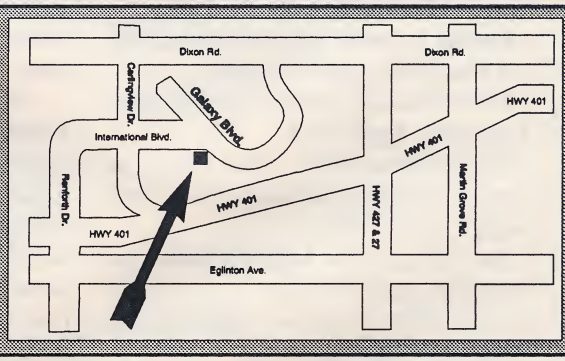

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IF YOU LOVE YOUR APPLE II

BY STEPHEN BROWN

There has been much discussion about the probable future of the Apple II line, and whether Apple Computer Inc's commitment to "Apple II Forever" means anything at all. I have been trying to make sense of the signs, signals, rumours, and plain indecision that seems to surround anything to do with any Apple Computer product. The conclusion I have come to, after much thought, thorough examination of the evidence, and industry contacts, isn't very nice.

It has prompted me to write an open letter to John Sculley, which is reprinted here. I encourage you to read it, consider it, and perhaps voice your feelings by sending similar mail to Mr. Sculley, as well as:

- Edward Birss, Senior Vice President, Product Engineering;
- Donald P. Casey, Vice President, Networking and Communication;
- Larry G. Tesler, Vice President, Advanced Technology;
- Michael H. Spindler, Senior Vice President and President, Apple USA;
- Bernard Gifford, Vice President, Education, Apple USA;
- Jean-Louis Gassee, Senior Vice President and President, Apple Products;
- Randall S. Battat, Vice President, Product Marketing, Apple Products;
- David Hancock, Senior Vice President, Marketing, Apple USA;
- Morris Taradalsky, Vice President, Customer Service and Information Technology, Apple USA;
- Ian Diery, Senior Vice President, and President, Apple Pacific;
- J. David Rae, President, Apple Canada;
- Letters, Nibble Magazine;
- Letters, InCider Magazine.

Also, I would suggest you consider sending mail to third-party supporters of the Apple II, asking them to push Apple on your (and their) behalf to do something positive with the Apple II. Consider such companies as Applied Engineering, Claris, Broderbund, Activision/Mediagenic, Turning-Point Software, MECC, and others who have something at stake.

The idea of a letter campaign to save the Apple II is not original. A project, called "Apple II-Forever/II-Infinitum", was first discussed on CompuServe, and more recently on Bitnet, and was all about Apple II users making their thoughts known to Apple Computer. The problem that the II-Infinitum project is facing is that people don't realize the immediacy of the problem, and they don't "lay it on the line": Support us now, or we won't support you later. The problem is that the Apple II does not have much time left, and Apple Computer is apparently relatively unreceptive. I would like to initiate something a bit more aggressive (call it what you want, perhaps "Apple 4 Apple 2").

Keep in mind that if the Apple II loses the feeble support it presently has from Apple Computer, the supply of new software, new third party hardware, and new developments in the Apple II world will gradually vanish, and we will be left with unsupported, obsolete, and useless equipment.

Apple will try to minimize the blow in a statement telling us that they will still support the Apple II, but no longer make Apple II CPUs. But "support" will mean infrequent System Software upgrades, and the occasional new peripheral (such as the rumoured System Disk version 6.0 and the rumoured new SCSI Interface Card). This is very much the kind of "support" we have had for the past four years, the only difference being that Apple II CPUs will be out of production.

It is not as if Apple is unable to improve the Apple II line. If the Apple II was price competitive, was advertised, had more "horsepower", and offered more features, it would flourish. It only takes a will to make it happen. Apparently, there is no such will at Apple Computer.

A large obstacle was placed in front of the Apple II several years ago, when Apple Computer ordained that the Apple II would be aimed exclusively towards primary school market. If this wasn't enough, they failed to keep the hardware performance current, offer developer support, and lower the price to fill the "low end" market. Now, Apple Computer is trying to erode Apple II educational sales with the Macintosh.

Features which are commonplace on other, cheaper machines, continue to be on the Apple II's wish-list. With confirmed news of cheap, fast processors (eg. the 20 Mhz 65816 from ASIC Enterprises), and the plummeting prices in memory, it is only Apple's own lack of confidence in the Apple II line which has kept working prototypes of superior machines and exciting new peripherals centimeters away from full-scale production.

Sales of the Apple II have fallen to a critically dangerous level, and it will not be long before Apple can justify discontinuing the machine. The Apple II is already dead in Europe, and is almost impossible to get in Canada. There may be no hope in changing Apple's attitude, but I think it is worth a try.

If you value your Apple II, then perhaps you should tell Apple Computer about it. Perhaps also, you should encourage all your fellow Apple II users to do the same before it is too late. It may already be...

An Open Letter to:

Mr. John Sculley,
President and CEO,
Apple Computer, Inc.,
20525 Mariani Avenue,
Cupertino, CA, 95014

Dear Sir:

I use an Apple IIgs, after having owned an Apple II+, and an Apple IIe. My Apple II's, particularly the IIgs, are used for education, business, and recreation. As an enthusiastic user, I have shown literally dozens of people what the Apple II can do, many of whom were so pleasantly surprised that they have bought Apple II's for their homes and schools, based on the quality, feel, and "personality" of the machine. These people would otherwise have been unfamiliar with the Apple II and purchased something else, probably something more widely available.

However, I am beginning to read the "writing on the wall", and I don't like what I'm seeing. It has become painfully obvious that in the near future, Apple Computer intends to redirect its resources into one computer line, that being Macintosh.

Your excuse has been that "Apple II Technology" is obsolete; apparently not on the "leading edge". Anyone who has the faintest technical knowledge of the Apple II sees this as little more than a veiled method of increasing Macintosh sales. You could easily have revitalized Apple II technology, making it current and competitive for whatever application. If you need technical assistance in this matter, I humbly offer my services.

With an injection of R&D and the proper marketing you could again make the Apple II a mainstay of your profits, and sell Apple II's to a niche that would otherwise never be occupied by a Macintosh. Having one line of computers, Macintosh, is like "putting all your eggs into one basket"; a risky prospect.

At any rate, you have made the "obsolescence" of the Apple II line into a self-fulfilling prophecy, and have subordinated existing Apple II hardware and software sales to the status of a "cash cow". Apple II users have been "used" to finance the future of Apple Computer, which evidently has no intention to include us in its plans.

As a user of Apple Computer products, I do not appreciate the lack of support that I have received from Apple Computer over the last few years. The release of viable system software, support to developers, advertising, and upgrades to existing hardware to keep the Apple II competitive in the market (performance/price), are wholly inadequate. You have allowed the Apple II to fade away. And it will be your neglect, not the machine's inherent weakness, that will have killed the Apple II.

But clearly, you would prefer to turn a blind eye, and allow sales to fall. You (of course) will have no excuse then, and will use this as justification to discontinue the line forever. You will try to soften the blow by saying that you still support the Apple II, but bringing out infrequent system software upgrades and occasional new peripherals is hardly anyone's idea of support.

Discontinuing production of Apple II CPU's would make me so completely dissatisfied with your company's attitude, that I assure you that whichever computer eventually replaces my Apple II's, it would never be another Apple Computer product. Further, I would do my utmost to encourage everyone else within my sphere of influence to do the same. This task will be easier than you think.

It is my opinion that you will lose the best advertising around: the word and trust of a large, loyal, and established following. By not supporting the user base of a million-plus Apple IIGS machines and 4 million-plus other Apple II's, you will have made your competitors very happy, because they will have your customers next time. I cannot comprehend how any company can treat its supporters with such disdain.

You may have decided what is best to feed us "consumers". You will soon find out that you are not the only business in town. We can easily shop elsewhere, where our patronage is appreciated and where a future is guaranteed.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Brown

STRAY BITS

BY KEN COHEN

A2-Central (formerly *Open-Apple*), the popular Apple II newsletter published by Apple II super-enthusiast Tom Weishaar, has made available to its subscribers a limited time offer of six hard-cover Addison-Wesley books comprising the "Apple IIgs Technical Library Set". Included are the Technical Introduction to the Apple IIgs, Programmer's Introduction, Firmware and Hardware Reference Manuals, and two Toolbox Reference volumes, for the price of US$49.95 plus shipping. Quite an offer, considering that the Programmer's Introduction plus source code disk alone sells in Toronto for about CDN$47.00.

Apple USA has implemented a one-year warranty, finally, on all of its hardware products sold in the United States. Apple Canada has long provided such a warranty. The warranty on hardware purchased in the United States is supposed to be honoured in Canada and other countries where Apple has dealers.

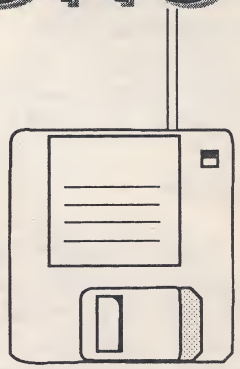
Apple in the United States is offering free repairs for problems resulting from dirt on the optical lense of Apple's CD-ROM drives, and will apparently reimburse owners who have paid for the repair in question. We do not know whether the same program is available from Apple Canada.

At the same time, Apple lowered its CD-ROM price by about 25%, and also recently announced price reductions on a number of other hardware products, including several Macintosh and LaserWriter models.

Zip Technology has been awarded an American patent on its Zip Chip, a development which has caused Applied Engineering to remove its Transwarp II accelerator card from the market. Maple Orchard nevertheless decided to print a detailed article about the Transwarp II in this issue. Expect a similar product, the Transwarp III, from Applied Engineering in the near future.

COMPUTER

COMMUNICATIONS



This issue of Maple Orchard features computer telecommunications as its theme. If you haven't purchased a modem for your microcomputer yet, you're in for a real treat when you do: there's a whole new world of information out there, available to you over the telephone wires, just waiting for you to tap into it. If you already own a modem, you may be looking for new ways to use it.

In either case, this issue should contain articles that will interest you. We've included articles on subjects ranging from how to use LOGIC's own bulletin board system to short reviews of commercial networks to the technical subject of communications protocol.

If you're interested in more information, several issues of Maple Orchard published in the last two years contain articles on this subject as well.

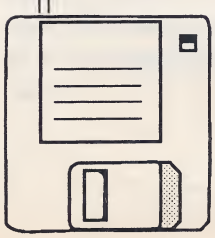
For beginners, members of the club, as well as your computer dealer, will be happy to advise you about getting started with a modem and telecommuncations software of your own. The LOGIC BBS is as good a place as any to get this start.

CHANGES ON THE LOGIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (THE "LOGIC BBS")

BY GEOFF GAHERTY, SYSTEM OPERATOR

Our bulletin board system is one of the most popular benefits of LOGIC membership. Throughout the nine years of its existence, it has operated on Apple II computers using a variety of BBS programs, most recently Protree Elite. Some of the hardware was beginning to show its age, having been in use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for many years. The software had become obsolete, and with little support from its author, there was no hope of upgrading it. The directors of LOGIC, on the advice of the BBS sysops, decided to upgrade both the hardware and the software by switching to a Macintosh system using Second Sight (formerly Red Ryder Host) software. Though far from perfect, this software has the advantage of excellent support and upgrades from its author, Scott Watson, through the FreeSoft Round Table on GEnie. There are at least half a dozen other BBS's using this software in the Toronto area, so it should be familiar to many users.

The new system offers several major improvements. The software is much faster in operation, and generally less complex and more "user-friendly" than the old. Early tests indicate that file transfers are 50% faster, and offer much more reliable error correction. With our new 140 MB hard drive, we will be able to have a much larger collection of files available for downloading on-line.



On the down side, there are some inconveniences for our Apple II users. All uploads and downloads must be in Binary][format, and the delete key and cursor control keys behave in a peculiar way. The only key which will work in editing is the left arrow key, which must be used for all deletions. The Delete key does nothing at all, and the right arrow key causes the cursor to skip backwards a few spaces and should be avoided. Once you learn to deal with these peculiarities, I think you will find the system to your liking.

We have experimented with different set-ups in our first weeks of operation because of our need to support two phone lines. Initially we ran two copies of Red Ryder Host on one computer under MultiFinder, one copy using the modem port, and the other the printer port. Because of the limitations of MultiFinder, users on both lines experienced considerable jerkiness as the computer switched from one copy of the program to the other. Access to the hard drive was equally fast for both copies. At the moment we are running the system on two Macs connected on a TOPS network. This makes one line very fast (the one connected directly to the hard drive) while the other experiences delays of 10 seconds or so while it accesses the hard drive over the network. This gives the best service to the users on line 1 (which is the most heavily used), at the cost of slightly slower service to users on line 2.

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At the moment there are no on-line help files, but much of the operation of the system is self-explanatory. You can read messages in their individual sections, or you can use the "R)ead favourite sections" command. This lets you read messages in any combination of sections you choose. The software lets you reply to a specific message, establishing a "thread" of related messages. While reading messages you can either read everything in the order it was posted, or follow particular threads. When you reach the end of a particular thread, you are returned to the message after the one which started the thread.

The system offers a range of file transfer protocols. You can upload and download text without error-checking protocols and there are three varieties of Xmodem transfer: CRC, Checksum, and 1K. Checksum Xmodem was the only protocol offered by Protree Elite, and is quite sensitive to errors from line noise. CRC Xmodem offers much better error correction. If your line is noise-free, 1K Xmodem is considerably faster than either of these since it sends the file in much larger blocks; this is compatible with Ymodem, available in many of the newer terminal programs. If you are using Red Ryder's successor, White Knight, on a Mac, you can also download using a very fast new protocol called Flash.

What is missing from the new software are the special ASCII Express protocols familiar to Apple II users. On its own, the Macintosh is incapable of storing the special file type information needed by Apple II computers. To preserve that information, you must upload files in Binary][format. This can be done automatically by most modern terminal programs (such as ProTerm) or can be added to a file packed using ShrinkIt (which we are now requiring as the standard format for Apple II files). These add a header to the file containing the necessary file type information. Once "wrapped" in Binary][format, Apple II files can be uploaded and downloaded by virtually any terminal program.

My assistants, Jim Low and Blair Angus, and I have worked very hard to make this new system the best LOGIC BBS ever. We hope that you enjoy it, but, if you encounter any problems, please leave us feedback on-line or call me during business hours at (416) 922-3399.

APPLE II FILE PROTOCOLS

BY MATTHEW MONTANO

(Editor's Note: Part One of this article, Transfer Protocols, was published in the January/February 1990 issue of Maple Orchard).

Sometimes using the correct transfer protocol doesn't guarantee that a file gets sent as desired. The name of a file being transferred is sometimes important for the operation of the program. Then there are programs which are actually many smaller files all working together to do whatever they do. If one of those files is incorrectly named, it is likely the program will swear at you with a "file not found" error, which is intensely aggravating. There are other times where your patience is ten minutes shorter than the time it takes to transfer a large program. Well, so called "file protocols" solve these problems.

Binary II, the original method, was developed by Gary B. Little (a Canadian now working for Apple with Developer Technical Services in California). Binary II was a method of placing one or more files into a larger file while maintaining all the attributes of the files inside it. This meant a program that consisted of 35 files of 270 bytes each could be placed in one file that was 35 x 270, or approximately 9.5k long. (The file will contain a few hundred bytes more for the information pertaining to the Binary II format, a topic that is beyond this article). Binary II allowed a user to group together a set of files making up a program, upload it to a BBS (whether it be Apple II based or not) and allow another Apple II users to download that file and using a program that ungroups Binary II files, get back the exact same files that were intended to be uploaded. Only one file needed to be uploaded, only one file needed to be downloaded, but many files are the end-result. An excellent analogy is an envelope. The contents inside can be anything, and no matter where that envelope ventures the contents remain the same. In the on-line community, files that are grouped together or "packed" using the Binary II scheme have the suffix ".bny". The three letter extension allowed compatibility with on-line systems running on MS-DOS which are limited to an 8 character name and a three letter extension.

Many programs support Binary II files, including Gary B. Little's Point to Point communications package. Most modern Apple II communications programs support "on the fly" unpacking of Binary II files. With such a program, you don't have to un-group the files by hand with a program like Binary.Down. TIC, ProTERM and even Apple's Access II also support the Binary II packing scheme.

The big drawback of sending files that have been BNY'ed is that they take quite a while for it to finish. For years, the Apple II world had become home to disk-packers. These disk packers would take a disk and compress it into one file which was transferable over a modem. In the process, the data was compacted using simple techniques in order to save time in the process of sending the file. Luckily there existed previously written routines for this to be done on an Apple II. Don Elton's SQueeze and USQueeze programs (which are still floating around), used a method of compressing the requested file into a much smaller file, suitable for sending over a modem in less time. Floyd Zink incorporated Gary B. Little's BNY routines and Don Elton's compression routines into one program, BLU, or Binary II Library Utility. BLU supported the selection of files in

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an easy to use interface, and it would compress the files and collect the files into a single BNY file. Because of the nature of the contained files, the file names of the generated files were usually called BQY files. BQY implied the file was in Binary II format containing SQueezed files. BLU was the only program that could unSQueeze BQY files and as a result BLU was a staple of any telecommunicators diet, or was until a program called ShrinkIt took the Apple II community by storm.

ShrinkIt's author Andy Nicholas had been known for many things, including the BBS transfer system of choice, SuperTAC, which is part of the GBBS package. Andy pioneered the implementation of protocols of Ymodem-Batch, 4k Xmodem (developed by Morgan Davis and is implemented as part of the MouseTalk package published by United Software Industries) and Ymodem-G on the part of BBS packages. Andy had always been involved in working with disk packing programs, including writing DDDPro. About this time, AppleLink PE was about to come on-line and rumour had Andy working on a new program and scheme for compressing files. When Andy used the screen name of "ShrinkIt" to login into AppleLink PE, it all made sense. ShrinkIt v1.0 for 8-bit 128k Apple II's became available soon as freeware (recently it has been called "beerware" by the comp.sys.apple USENET group, but that's a different story). Andy publicly released a document describing the format of a ShrinkIt file in intricate detail. The design was brilliant, allowing Andy to keep the compression routine he used to himself, but allowing others to manipulate these files. The scheme he called NuFX, and the program he wrote to support it was called ShrinkIt. ShrinkIt was completely compatible with BLU and ACU (ACU was a modified version of BLU for AppleLink PE users) and all the Binary II compliant programs available. It decompressed any file compressed by BLU or ACU, but it didn't work the opposite way. The compression routine used by ShrinkIt was faster and the compressed files smaller than BLU. The program was easier to use and supported more features. The design of the NuFX scheme was open ended and not hardware specific, meaning that if someone desired they could create a NuFX program for the Macintosh or even MS-DOS machines. ShrinkIt could also compress disks, meaning that all the previous disk-packers were made obsolete. It was instantly adopted. Many private BBS's running GBBS refused to allow files to be upload that were not in ShrinkIt format. It was bug-free (which was something new for some) and free!

ShrinkIt files are suffixed 'SHK' by standard. Since it ran on any Apple II running ProDOS (a II+ version that only supports unshrinking is available), BLU was essentially deleted from many telecommunicators libraries. AppleLink PE recently underwent a name and organizational change and is now called America Online, and with the new software sent out to all new and old members, ShrinkIt has replaced ACU and is the program of choice for America Online files. Even Apple Computer officially adopted the ShrinkIt standard and when it uploads the new system software to services such as America Online, it is in ShrinkIt format. Andy McFadden who helped Andy develop the NuFX scheme and compression routines recently released a program called NuLib that exists in several standard "C" source code files. NuLib which can manipulate NuFX files on any system supporting a standard "C" compiler has opened the gates for other systems using the NuFX standard. NuLib runs on Sun workstations, VAX's, and even IBM PC's! NuLib is available from many on-line sources.

To throw a wrench in the works, many on-line systems still liked the Binary II standard of placing multiple files in one file. Some systems had written routines on foreign systems to manipulate them and they didn't want to re-write routines for a new and incompatible system under ShrinkIt and NuFX. Luckily Andy had included the facilities for this to be done. I believe by holding open-apple down when pressing return to enter the file name to compress to, ShrinkIt will place the files inside a Binary II file. These files became known as "BXY" files, implying a Binary II file with ShrinkIt shrunk files inside.

Are you lost?

I hope not, because it actually is simple, at least in comparison to the mess that our Intel cousins have gone through with PKWare's ARC and ZIP and LHArc all floating around, and the screens full of protocols you can use to download with. Never mind the law suits over compression algorithms and name copyrights!

APPENDIX

ShrinkIt: Now at version 2.1, it is ready to go to v3.0 with improved speed and smaller compressed files. ShrinkIt GS which was initially to become a commercial product, published by L&L Productions, but will now become freeware when it is released probably by January 1990. Andy Nicholas is avail

BLU: Binary Library Utility's last version was v2.28 and will likely never be updated again.

ProTERM: ProTERM is published by Checkmate Technologies and is at version 2.1. It usually available for about $100US through mail order outlets, and at last check was available from Arkon Electronics.

TIC: Talk Is Cheap is published by Carolina System Software, 3207 Berkely Forest Drive, Columbia, SC, 29209-4111. Don Elton is reachable by sending electronic mail to "delton@pro-carolina" from pro-generic.

Apple Access II: Access II is published by Apple Computer and is available from your Apple Authorized Dealer.

NuLib: NuLib is available from most major on-line services. (including pro-generic). NuLib is freeware and consists of several "C" source code files.

GBBS: GBBS is published by L&L Productions, P.O. Box 5354, Arvada, CO, 80005.

If you have any technical questions you can reach me in the following locations:

LOGIC's own BBS, 416-922-1626. The E-mail address is "MONTE".

My BBS, pro-generic, 416-237-0308, 3/12/24/96. My email address is sysop.

Electronic mail:

InterNet: sysop@pro-generic.cts.com (most university computers)

UUCP: ...crash!pnet01!pro-generic!sysopPro-Line: sysop@pro-generic

NETWORK USERS GET VOCAL ABOUT CONNECT - TIME PRICE HIKE

BY PAUL CONNELL, WORCESTER MAC USERS GROUP (W-MUG)

Mac users, irritated by a variety of recent price increases by Connect, Inc., have been turning up the volume on their complaints on the Cupertino-based network's Macintosh Forum.

Two years ago, Connect started MacNet, an on-line information network that promised subscribers many of the services of CompuServe, but with a twist. The company marketed its product complete with software that had a "Mac-like" interface. The good news was that people could now use the familiar Mac interface when telecommunicating, without having to go through the kludgey quagmires of networks like CompuServe.

The bad news was also the software. It was not optional. It was proprietary—you needed it to use the network and it listed for (what then seemed) a pricey $75. Connect also charged a fee for "throughput," that most users felt was a hidden charge.

Then, in the fall of 1988, Connect underwent a major corporate shake-up and laid off many of its key employees. Some estimates were rumored to be as high as 20%. Connect followed this action with a software "upgrade" to its current subscribers at a charge of $50. For new users, the price of the software (necessary to connect with the service) soared to $150. The major "improvements" in the "upgraded" software were a spelling checker, minor interface tweaks, and a name change—from MacNet to Connect Business Information Network. The upgrade and the layoffs revealed a change of direction for the company which seemed to focus on the "business" market. However, the layoffs and the upgrade also brought an escalating level of discontent from network users, who were incensed by the company's apparent insensitivity. These complaints dramatically intensified when Connect added a New-Year price hike.

Most of the notes posted on the network castigated the company for gouging its loyal users. One message, from a subscriber named Kevin Garret, said, "[Connect is] The most expensive service if you download, costing even more than CompuServe. Unbelievably expensive software: $150 list price. They also shut down the system for maintenance every night at 11:00 PST, just about the time I want to log on." Garret went on to say, "You guys have made four bone-headed mistakes: 1) Charging too much for software, 2) Charging too much for connect time (through-put surcharge), 3) Pitching to business users only, and 4) Not being responsive or loyal to your installed user base... Don't insult your users with marketing doublespeak."

Steve Basile, another user, said: "It's quite clear, CONNECT is out to make a killing on both the connection fees and the software in the short term. They should remember the lesson Apple was taught with their recent price hike."

Some of the posted messages brought out old scores to settle. One subscriber, Bill Whitford, actually tested the throughput of the network: "Concerning the 'transfer rate' charges, I would like to know how many people realize that the apparent rate of transfer is only 50 to 75% of what the transfer window states. This is highway (network) robbery. I have actually timed the file transfers and even at 9600 bps it is really only 7200 bps or less. This is also the case at 2400 bps. Mainly in uploading but also downloads."

Dave Burbank, of Burbank Consultants, cited deceptive rates, corporate insensitivity, and poor network maintenance as recurring problems. "It seems like Connect is gradually trying to get us all to invest so much money in them that we'll be afraid to quit. Now, they want to raise their hourly rates! I'm not opposed to a business raising their rates to keep track with rising costs. That's the way things work in our economy. But, I expect a company to be doing their job well before they increase their price," he said.

Some users suggested a boycott lasting from Christmas to New Years to "get the attention" of the company. One user, whose name was listed only as "Steve" remarked, "Just like last time everyone got enraged, we're spending too much money (and putting [it] in their pocket) yakking about it. If you like MacNet but don't like the pricing, send a silent message. Everyone who's ticked off, boycott for a week. Let the forum be a ghost town — preview of things to come. See ya in a week."

Many of the complaints came from small businesses or organizations who use the network to communicate or to conduct business. Rob Herrington, of the Wintersville, Ohio, Fire Department, said, "There are over 350 fire departments on this network who where brought here by some of us who were AppleLink users. Looks like it's time to start looking elsewhere for a forum. One that is more stable with pricing, and definitely one that doesn't shut down every day, just about the time most of us get a chance to use it."

Don Rittner, the founder of MUG News Service, also left the following message: "Folks, those of you who deal with me regarding the MUG NEWS SERVICE, please correspond with me on America Online as AFC MNS or DRITTNER. I too am one who will be spending much less time here."

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MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1990

ONLINE COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Genie

BY ROB WHITELOCK

Big industries buy big computers, costing big money. These computers often sit idle in the evening, rather than do anything productive. A few years ago General Electric in the United States decided to make some use of their big computers in the evening, and make some money, too. They set up an information service - GEnie - to let people pay for the privilege of using their mainframes at night, and pay handsomely to use them in the daytime.

The General Electric Network for Information Exchange started as an alternative to the few other large networks available in the mid 1980's - CompuServe, the Source and Delphi. GEnie boasted similar services for less money - as long as you only used the service at night. Daytime costs were staggering - as much as $60 US per hour. Over the years GEnie has grown in membership and in services offered to the point where it is the service of choice for many modem users in North America.

GEnie is a full service information network. For many computer users, the RoundTables - where download files can be accessed and bulletin board topics can be read - are the heart of the service, the primary reason for membership. GEnie boasts RoundTables for the Apple II and Macintosh (both user and developer oriented), IBM and compatibles, Commodore and Atari varieties. It also adds specific product-oriented areas, including manufacturers such as MicroSoft, Ashton-Tate and Borland. The file libraries are extensive, with more than 16,000 Macintosh files available, and over 10,000 Apple II files. GEnie has adapted to improvements in transfer protocols, providing Xmodem, Xmodem-1K, Ymodem and Zmodem.

In addition to the computer areas, GEnie offers a variety of other services: roundtables devoted to Science Fiction and Fantasy literature, Games, Photography, Geneology, and NASA, to name just a few. For an additional charge, users can access the Grolier Encyclopaedia and the Dow Jones Newsline. An increasing number of retailers are providing access to their order desks through GEnie. These include specialty products (like candy, flowers and compact disks) as well as computer retailers, such as MacZone and ProgramsPlus. Users can read USA Today, make travel arrangements through Easy SAABRE, or play games on-line, including card games and adventures.

So why choose GEnie over other full featured services? The truth is, I'm no longer sure. GEnie was definitely cheaper back when I first joined it in 1987. The current rates for Canadian users (they actually bill in Canadian bucks) are $9.00 per hour for 1200 BAUD users and $15.00 per hour at 2400 BAUD. These rates apply to people who can access GEnie through a local telephone call: others, like myself, must pay additional long distance charges. GEnie provides local numbers only in the largest Canadian population centres. In Ontario, users access GEnie through Streetsville (Toronto). The 1200 Baud number is (416) 858-1230, and the 2400 Baud access is (416) 858-0824.

It is also possible to access GEnie through the iNet gateway, but this is not particularly cheap, and slows down transmission to a point where it is actually cheaper to pay long distance charges after 11pm and on weekends. (For more on iNet, see the article in this issue).

Other than the cost factor, I am not aware of reasons for choosing GEnie over CompuServe. GEnie is easy to use, and any modem software can access it. It is a standard text-based system, although Macintosh users can obtain a freeware package called MacGEnie from the Mac RoundTable that provides a graphic front end. MacGEnie has been orphaned by GEnie (no updates), although they are apparently planning to release a Macintosh version of Aladdin, a package that simplifies access for IBM users.

I have made limited use of many of GEnie's on-line features due to the long-distance cost of accessing them. It has been invaluable to me, however, as a source of shareware and freeware programs, clip art, information about products, hints in playing various games, and as LOGIC's means of accessing the Mac News Network. Apple II users will be interested to know that Beagle Bros are regular contributors to the Apple II RoundTable, and that the people that bring us A2 Central (the former Open Apple newsletter, easily the finest newsletter ever published about the Apple II computer) are the system operators for the Apple II RoundTable. Bart Barton, the Mac RoundTable sysop, has replied to all of my questions (ranging from mundane How-do-I-do-this? types to specific requests for reprinting bulletin board threads) quickly and with amazing personal aplomb. If you are feeling a bit lost in the computer wilderness, and can't find people around you to ask questions of, access to the experts on the bulletin boards of GEnie can make your costs well worthwhile.

COMPUSERVE

BY GEOFF GAHERTY

CompuServe is the largest and in many ways the best of the giant on-line services. It offers by far the widest range of services of any system, as well as access to the largest number of users. Though not the cheapest (US$12.75 per hour for 1200 and 2400 baud calls), it probably offers "more bang for the buck" than any other service. GEnie is less expensive in off-peak hours, but becomes astronomically expensive during the day; CompuServe eliminated the day/night cost differential a couple of years ago. CompuServe has more direct access ports than any other system, so is accessible without surcharges in more places than any other.

Exploring a system as vast as CompuServe can be intimidating, and also expensive. Many modems and terminal programs come with trial packages which give you varying amounts of free on-line time: Use them! It helps to plan your expeditions ahead of time, using the information provided to subscribers, and to keep your capture buffer running all the time, so that

you have a permanent record of your trip to cut corners on your next voyage.CompuServe is a menu-driven system. From the main menu, called the Top Menu, you can move through multiple submenus in hundreds of different directions. Each menu has a name in its upper right hand corner. You can save yourself much time and money if you make a note of the menu names that particularly interest you; on your next call you can simply type in GO XXXX, where XXXX is the name of a particular menu.

There are vast areas of CompuServe which I have never explored, so I'll only talk here about the few areas I've used most often. There are forums supporting the products of many different hardware and software companies. These typically offer large libraries of downloadable software and self-contained bulletin boards. One of the oldest and largest of these is MAUG, which stands for Micronetworked Apple Users Group, run by its well-known sysop, Neil Shapiro. Within MAUG there eight sub-forums: Apple II and III, Developers, User Groups, Vendor, HyperCard, Mac Arts and Entertainment, Mac Business, and Mac Personal Productivity. This is where the latest public domain software and shareware first appears, and where you can receive almost instant answers to the most obscure questions relating to Apples and Macs.

Another totally different area of CompuServe is the Official Airline Guide. This is exactly the same guide that your travel agent calls up on their screen, except that you can experiment with the settings. I now always go to my travel agent with my printout in hand, already aware of the best connections and fares. It is even possible to make plane and hotel reservations yourself on-line, but I've never tried that. There is a surcharge for services like the Official Airline Guide, which is added automatically to your bill; CompuServe always warns you if a surcharge applies before they start charging you. Another thing I do when I'm planning a trip to the States is to get the NOA weather forecasts for the area I'm visiting.

The best way for Macintosh users to access CompuServe is with a special program called CompuServe Navigator, which you can order on-line. This lets you completely automate your session before you go on line... you then run the script and sit back and watch. It is MUCH faster than doing it manually, and uses a special protocol for file transfers which is extremely efficient. This program will pay for itself in a few calls - highly recommended.

CANADA REMOTE SYSTEMS

BY KENNETH COHEN

Canada Remote Systems ("CRS") began life in 1981 as a Toronto-based electronic bulletin board system with one telephone line, one computer, and a few downloadable CP/M files online. From such small beginnings sometime spring vast undertakings. Today, according to CRS, it has 10,000 paid members who can access more than 3 *gigabytes* (one gigabyte equals about one billion bytes) of online files via 100 networked microcomputers and 100 telephone lines.

CRS offers several different kinds of membership. The most popular that I'm aware of is "full membership", which costs $80.00 per year for non-MSDOS users and $90.00 for MSDOS users. Full membership provides file downloading and message accessing privileges, subject only to a two hour daily time limit. There is no hourly rate, no surcharges for calling during business hours, and no surcharge for calling at 2400 baud. You pay your flat annual fee and that's it. If you're only interested in downloading files, a less expensive membership is available.

While the majority of the files online are MSDOS, a vast number of Macintosh and Apple II files are also available, probably numbering in the tens of thousands. They appear to include virtually all of the public domain freeware and shareware files available for the Mac, in addition to daily world and computer news and stock market feeds from several different sources. There are also many ascii-formatted ".arc-" and ".zip-" packed files in the MSDOS areas, including such esoterica as dBase-language source code files, which can be unpacked and read with a Macintosh. Mac users looking for clipart, sound files, "adult" graphics, or anything else you can imagine, need look no further. You probably will run out of patience downloading and sorting through the available material before you run out of files to download. I've only looked through the Apple II area of the system once, but I'm aware that its offerings are extensive.

CRS also, among other things, offers public domain computer files for sale on disk, mails a newsletter to its members periodically, and offers discounted prices on computer hardware.

If CRS has any major problem, it's the complexity of its so-called "interface". Like many Macintosh and Apple II users, I've been spoiled by Apple's operating systems, and find much of the CRS system to be incomprehensible. So I've done what most MSDOS users end up doing with their computers: I use CRS only for specific tasks, the methods for which I've duly memorized. Those tasks are the reading and occasional posting of messages in the Macintosh message area, and the downloading of files. Whatever else the system offers, I've found so puzzling as to ignore. There are all kinds of online prompts and messages which are meaningless to me and which I haven't the time or inclination to try to decipher. If there was ever an example of "gilding the lily", CRS is it. Fortunately, I can get what I want out of the system despite its complexity, and I haven't found it difficult to handle.

One area in which CRS appears to be lacking in comparison with, for example, Genie, is its message area. Genie's Apple II message base offers dozens of members who can provide invaluable advice and assistance with all kinds of computer problems, and its Mac message base wasn't far below the Apple II standard in this respect. I've found CRS somewhat lacking in this kind of resource, although I've noticed that some senior technical people from Apple Canada seem to be regular callers.

In conclusion, I highly recommend CRS to Apple II and Macintosh users whose needs lie primarily in downloading files. From a cost point of view compared to the other commercial systems, CRS is, in my view, unbeatable. The two Toronto-based phone lines for CRS are 416-629-0136 and 416-629-0158. CRS is also available elsewhere in southern Ontario. For more information, telephone 416-624-8193, 1-800-387-3347, or 1-800-668-4706.

AMERICAONLINE

BY DORMAN BULLARD

America Online is what the long awaited AppleLink, Personal Edition (for the Macintosh) turned into. I thought Apple was publishing it. Apparently they made arrangements with Quantum Computer Services to take it over. For those that don't know, AppleLink is a Bulletin Board System intended primarily as a link between Apple and its dealers. The most initially striking aspect of AppleLink is that it uses the standard Apple desktop metaphor: Pull-down menus, windows, icons and folders. America Online is a BBS for the rest of us, sporting that same interface.

Some of the features of America Online are:

- A software library available for downloading.
- A mail service.
- On-line conferences with other users (you can use the "Get Sounds" feature to broadcast sound to other users).
- On-line games.
- Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia.
- News, including USA Today and 8 top news wires.
- Stock quotations (15 minute delay on market days)..
- On-line training.
- On-line shopping
- SABRE travel services for checking airline schedules and making reservations (a service charge is assessed).
- Technical Library Database searching.
- Third Party Software description searching.
- Free customer support and help area, including "right now" chatting with service representatives.
- A "Lifestyle & Interests" area where you can find information and read or leave messages about a variety of topics from comedy, to cooking, to science fiction, movies, etc.
- Lots of different forums where you can leave question and answers.
- Major Software publishers forums where you can get information on the latest versions and ask for technical assistance.
- Apple Users Groups Forum.

It is noted that America Online supports both Apple II and Macintosh products. I initially thought this would make navigating the BBS difficult, but I haven't found it to be so. Figure 1 is a screen dump of the Computing and Software Forum where I spend most of my time:

Note the familiar pull-down menus at the top of the screen. From here in a normal session I will double-click the "Software Libraries" icon to get a look at new files available for download. If instead I double-clicked the "Utilities/Desk Accessories" folder that is highlighted I get the screen shown in Figure 2.

If I double-click the "Let's Discuss" folder I will get another set of folders each devoted to some aspect of Utilities/Desk Accessories. Here you can read or leave messages about hardware or software, bugs, special features, etc, ask for help, etc. In the conference hall you can find out if anyone else is on line, and if so start a conversation with them.

If clicking through folders sounds a bit tiresome, you can navigate by the use of "keywords". Just select Keywords from a pull-down menu, or press Command-K, and you will get a text entry dialog box to enter the keyword. For example, "Mall" would take you to the shopping and travel areas, "News" will take you to the News area for USA Today headline stories or stock quotes. There are also keyboard commands for many other functions such as downloading files or saving text screens.

So, how does it all work? I'm not sure I've used it enough to provide a good critique, but here goes anyhow. Before I got on I had heard complaints about how slow it was. When I did get on I was pleasantly surprised. Perhaps this was because I was prepared for the worst, or perhaps because I had used AppleLink and MacNet, both of which use graphical user interfaces. There always seems to be at least a little price to pay for the ease of use of this interface. I believe America Online

Figure 1

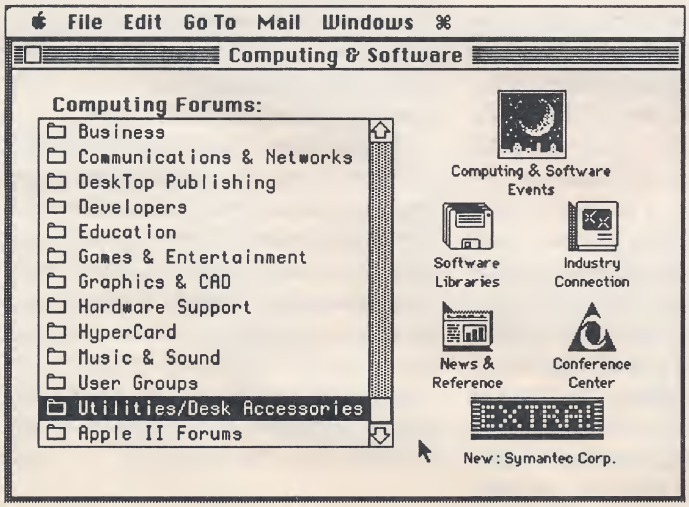
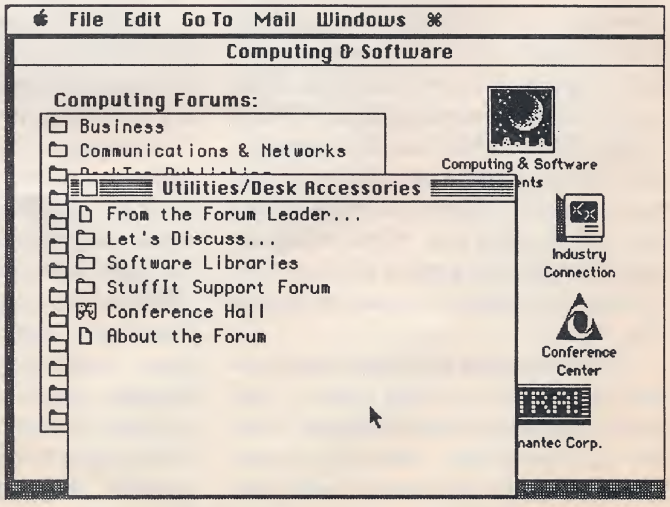


Figure 2



is quite speedy at least in comparison. Since getting on I have read that Quantum has made a number of improvements, including improving the speed. Part of the complaints may have come from use prior to this improvement. I have also heard of slow-downs and freezes, said to have been prevalent during hours of peak use (not prime time, but peak non-prime hours). I have experienced only one freeze (or terminal slowdown) in perhaps five hours of use. However, most of my use has not been during peak hours. Anyhow, user comments I have read indicate this too has been improved, if not eliminated. With the use of keyword and the ability to customize the Go To menu and windows, I find navigating to be quite acceptable. MultiFinder is supported. Quantum claims it intends to make continued improvements, and have first rate customer support. Evidence to date supports this. I find the software quite interesting, and the price is right, especially if you become a charter member. Maybe I'm not seeing the warts because the newness hasn't worn off, but I highly recommend it.

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America Online - A Canadian User's Perspective

BY ROB WHITELOCK

I've had a chance to use America Online for about a month, and must confess that it hasn't replaced GEnie as my primary information service. There are several reasons for this. First, like many other users, I'm used to GEnie, and find that I spend too much time looking around on America Online to find things, except for the mail. E-mail is undoubtedly America Online's finest feature (that I have found to date, anyway). When I log on there is a small envelope icon in the upper right hand corner of the screen. If someone has sent me mail, the envelope opens and my computer SAYS to me "You've got mail!". Small thing, but it's kinda neat.

Back to finding things. America Online bundles items in little pockets (look at the screen images in the other America Online article). On GEnie I log on, then go to the Mac and Apple II libraries and list all the new uploads since my last call. I can't do that on America Online. Maybe their way is better, but for now I really don't like it.

The biggest problem Canadian users face is the cost of this service. It must be accessed via DataPac, and as a result America Online adds a $0.20 US surcharge PER MINUTE to the $4.00 US per hour usage fee. This isn't as much of a problem for me as it is for those of you that live in or near Toronto, and who aren't used to paying long distance charges for accessing GEnie or CompuServe.

DataPac itself is another problem. I have a 2400 bps modem, but the local DataPac number is a 1200 bps link. As a result, I lose the advantage of speed that I paid for when I got my modem.

Otherwise, I have found two features on America Online particularly useful so far. The first is the mail service (I'm Rob36 for any of you that want to write to somebody the first time you log on!), which I've already spoken of. The second is the fact that I can access the Grolier encyclopedia free of surcharges. That service may not seem particularly useful to many of you, but I don't own an encyclopedia, and the school I teach in is 35 kilometers away. Every once in a while I want to check something, and I can do so very quickly through America Online.

Should you sign up? Right now is a good time, because the America Online people are still offering "charter memberships" for free. This gets you two free hours to play (except for the communications charge), and gives you a 20% discount on the hourly rate. The normal charge is a monthly charge of $5.95 US, which includes one hour of non-prime time use, plus $4.00 per additional hour per month, and $12.00 US per hour communications charges. Seems steep! If you're interested, you can call America Online COLLECT at 703-883-0788 to request a copy of the proprietary software you need to log on. It, at least, is free! It's also available for both Apple II and Macintosh computers: Be sure you tell them which one you want.

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LOGIC BBS SYSTEM AND APPLE II USERS

BY BLAIR ANGUS

Now that LOGIC has a new BBS System running, there are a number of changes that will affect all Apple // Users. Two major areas in the BBS in which users will notice a difference are the Editor and the Download Section. The BBS now supports Xmodem CRC, Xmodem Checksum, and Xmodem 1K. It also supports ASCII Dump, which is an ASCII Transfer. ASCII Dump is only supported on Text files. If you use ASCII Dump in the download mode, it will type the file contents on the screen. In the upload mode, you send a stream of characters, ie. typing to the modem not the printer. Users will notice that there is a Flash Protocol. This is only for use with White Knight (formerly Red Ryder).

You may also notice that Editor seems to work incorrectly. When you are entering a message and you reach the end of the line, the word will wrap to the next line, but it will leave some of the characters at the end of the previous line. The only problem with this is that it looks funny when you are entering the message. When the message is saved the extra characters will be missing. You can L>ist the message and you will see that the extra characters are missing. I recommend that you always L>ist and read over your message before you S>ave it.

If you find that the Editor is too difficult to work with, you can upload your message instead. Once you have created your message, using a word processor or editor, and saved the message in text format, you can then upload the message into the Editor. To do this, you must use ASCII Transfer, which is available in most telecommunications programs. For best results, I recommend that you use the following options:

Prompt = >
Line Length = 75 characters
Inter-Character Delay = 0 ms
Inter-Line Delay = 50 ms (this can be reduced to zero)

There are two ways to create a BXY file, as well as two ways to download and unpack. You can choose whichever you find easiest to use and remember. To create a .BXY file, you must use ShrinkIt 2.1 or later. First, you select the files you want to archive. Next, ShrinkIt will ask you to type in a filename for the archive. End your filename entry by pressing Open-Apple-Return (instead of Return alone) and ShrinkIt will add Binary II formatting automatically. If your communications program has a Binary II option for uploading, (the only ones that we're aware of that do, are ProTerm and Point-to-Point) just pack with ShrinkIt normally (i.e. without the Open-Apple-Return at the end), but turn your communication software's Binary II option on while uploading.

To download a BXY file, you should turn the Binary II option of your term program on. For any other download, you should not use the Binary II option. After the download, just use ShrinkIt to unpack.

If your term program does not have a "Binary II" option for downloading, simply download the file without this option. You can simply use ShrinkIt to unpack without any difficulty.

Downloading a file from the BBS is a fairly simple procedure, which requires a telecommunications program that uses transfer protocols. Determining which protocol you will use, will be dependent upon the protocols supported by the program that you are using. Here are some simple guidelines that you can use to determine which protocol is right for you. Xmodem 1K is good for fast transfers on a clean and mainly error-free phone line. Xmodem CRC has very good error checking and can be used on slightly noisier lines. Xmodem Checksum is more prone to error, but is still a good file transfer protocol.

Below you will find a sample session of downloading a file from the BBS to your computer. Uploading a file from your computer to the BBS is very similar. Once, you get the message "Ready to start download, you have 120 seconds to begin", you must tell your telecommunications program to start receiving the file and where to store it on your computer. For example, ProTerm uses Open-Apple-R to start receive, then you select a transfer protocol, and then the location and name for the file.

Sample Download Session:

```
Connection made at 2400 baud.

Welcome to the...

 LOGIC Information System

* Sponsored by LOGIC: Canada's oldest Apple user group
* Operating 24 hours a day at 300, 1200, and 2400 bps
* All original contents are Copyright 1990 by LOGIC

  System operators: Geoff Gaherty
                    Blair Angus
                    Jim Low

  Logging onto Node 1...

Your first name? new
Your last name? user
Searching userlog...
Your password? ****

Welcome, New User, from Toronto!
Connected on 03/06/90 at 22:23:25
You are caller number 1514

You have called this system 2 times.
You last called on 03/06/90 at 22:13:27
You have uploaded 0 files and have downloaded 0 files.
You have sent 0 private messages and 0 public messages.
```

No new messages have been sent to you since your last call.

Notice: This system enforces time limits over a period of 12 hours.
Your time limit for this call has been adjusted to 35 minutes.
To restore your time limit to its full amount, please wait at least
12 hours after this call before calling back.

Press carriage return to continue...

Press CTRL-S to Pause, or any key to resume.

Next Macintosh meeting: March 6
Topics: PageMaker 3.02
Tax templates

Next Apple II meeting: March 20
Topic: IIgs update

All meetings take place at:
7:30 pm, North York Memorial Centre
5150 Yonge (between Sheppard & Finch)

Press any key to continue...

LOGIC Information System
Main Menu

M)essages

D)ownload libraries

I)nformation and membership
F)eedback
U)ser utilities

O)ff, hang up

(35 minutes left) Command (M,D,I,F,U,O) ? D

Download Libraries

G)eneral library
A)pple II library
2)Apple IIgs library
M)acintosh library
*)Maple Orchard library

Q)uit to main menu
O)ff, hang up
(35 minutes left) Command (G,A,2,M,*,Q,O) ? A
Apple II Download Library

N)ew files added since your last call
C)hronological list of all files
R)everse chronological list of all files
F)ind a file name
I)nformation about a file

D)ownload a file to your computer
U)pload a file from your computer

J)ump to next download library (Apple IIgs)
X)Transfer to Apple II message section

Q)uit to previous menu
O)ff, hang up

(34 minutes left) Command (N,C,R,F,I,D,U,J,X,Q,O) ? C

Press CTRL-S to pause, CTRL-Q to resume, or CTRL-C to cancel.

Name Size Date Accesses File Type

SHRINKIT.BXY 50560 02/08/90 3 Non-Mac Application Or Docu
ment
ShrinkIt for the Apple //e, //c, //c+, and IIgs.
(LOGIC BBS Packing Standard)

D>ownload, N>ext, Q>uit, C>ontinuous, RETURN = Next (D,N,Q,C)? D

Download using what protocol:

1) XMODEM-CRC
2) XMODEM-Checksum
3) XMODEM-1K blocks
F) Flash Protocol

Which one (1, 2, 3, or F)? 3
Since this is a non-Macintosh file, be sure to disable the
recognition of MacBinary format by your software.

New User from Toronto,
Ready to start download, you have 120 seconds to begin.

Transfer concluded successfully!

Press carriage return to continue...

Press CTRL-S to pause, CTRL-Q to resume, or CTRL-C to cancel.
Name Size Date Accesses File Type

SHRINKIT.BXY 50560 02/08/90 4 Non-Mac Application Or Docu
ment
ShrinkIt for the Apple //e, //c, //c+, and IIgs.
(LOGIC BBS Packing Standard)

D>ownload, N>ext, Q>uit, C>ontinuous, RETURN = Next (D,N,Q,C)? Q

Apple II Download Library

N)ew files added since your last call
C)hronological list of all files
R)everse chronological list of all files
F)ind a file name
I)nformation about a file

D)ownload a file to your computer
U)pload a file from your computer

J)ump to next download library (Apple IIgs)
X)Transfer to Apple II message section

Q)uit to previous menu
O)ff, hang up

(29 minutes left) Command (N,C,R,F,I,D,U,J,X,Q,O) ? O

Are you sure you want to disconnect?

Y)es, disconnect now
N)o, return me to the main menu

(29 minutes left) Command (Y,N) ?
Y

Elapsed time this call: 6 minutes.
Thank you for calling!
Please hang up your phone now.
Red Ryder Host, Copyright (C) 1989, The FreeSoft Company,
150 Hickory Dr., Beaver Falls, PA, U.S.A. 15010. All rights reserved
Voice: (412)846-2700. Written by Scott Watson. Version 2.1B4.
+++
NO CARRIER

iNet 2000: Gateway to the Universe?

Two LOGIC members describe their experiences with Telecom Canada's "Gateway"

BY ROB WHITELOCK

Getting on-line with different information services can be bewildering. Where the average person with a computer may join a large service like GEnie or CompuServe, and use a BBS like LOGIC's, some businesses may need access to several different large information services, each with its own way of billing, and with differing access routes. Telecom Canada, through its member telephone companies, offers iNet 2000, which is essentially a Gateway to a wide variety of information services.

So what does a Gateway do? iNet provides users with access to information services by placing a call to the local DataPac number. Once connected to iNet, the user can select the services they have access to through a series of menus, or can subscribe to new services. Most of the services that users access bill iNet, and iNet in turn bills the user. Since many of these services are located in the United States, this provides the convenience of receiving one monthly bill instead of many, and that bill is in Canadian dollars.

A very wide variety of services can be accessed through iNet. Computer hobbyists would be interested in CompuServe and GEnie, both of which can be accessed through the iNet gateway. Large US based-information services, such as BRS and BRS/BRKTHRU can also be accessed in this way. In addition, a number of university libraries and governmental institutions can be searched on-line through an iNet hookup. Be warned, however: Few are cheap. As an iNet user, you also have direct access to Envoy 100, the electronic mail network.

iNet is not cheap. It costs $55.00 to sign up (which gets you a really impressive manual), $3.30 per month to stay a member, plus usage fees. These vary with prime time and non-prime time, and with the nature of the service being used. Some services absorb the telecommunications charge, while others do not. Even if they do, the user still incurs costs in using iNet to get to whatever is being used. Those costs range from $12.35 to $16.50 per hour.

An additional feature of iNet is the ability to use it to contact bulletin boards that are not accessible through the Gateway without incurring long distance charges. iNet offers a service called Outdial which lets users place 'local' calls to many different major centres in Canada. This is not free: You pay iNet approximately $9.00 per hour for it. This is less than the long distance charge, however.

iNet works well for accessing bulletin boards and other information providers, because the information is usually text and comes slowly. For anyone wanting to use iNet to download, there is a serious drawback. iNet connects through satellite hookups. The distances information travels to satellite and back is actually far enough to cause very perceptible slowdowns in data transfer. The net effect is that commands seem to jerk and pause awkwardly, and the transmission rate for downloading is about half what one would expect when using a direct telephone link. This pretty much eliminates the value in connecting via Outdial to save on long distance charges.

BY GEOFF GAHERTY

I've been using iNet for close to two years, and it has not been a happy experience. This is roughly what I should have expected from Ma Bell, the same folks who brought you Datapac, the network that requires you to enter an eight-digit code in order to get help.

I purchased my iNet subscription through my local Radio Shack store, and it was exactly one month to the day between the time I paid my money and the time I first actually got on-line; with CompuServe or GEnie you can have full access in a day or so. As Rob says, you get a very impressive manual, but you really need it, since iNet is one of the least user-friendly environments I have ever encountered in my years of telecommunicating. I still haven't figured most of it out, despite the glossy documentation.

Initially I used iNet as a gateway to other services, but ran into the problems Rob has mentioned of sluggish response and staggering costs. Then, a year ago, I began to use its electronic mail component, Envoy 100, to engage in almost daily exchanges of messages with a colleague located in rural Ontario, far from the nearest Datapac port. Here iNet seemed to offer a distinct advantage, since anyone outside of Datapac range was allowed to use a free 800 number for access. iNet subsequently started charging a hefty fee for the use of that 800 number.

After learning to master the rather primitive on-line editor — word-wrap is unheard of, truly weird things start to happen

(continues)

if you enter more than 80 characters on a line, and don't EVER attempt to use the line editor if you value your sanity — we found we could exchange messages with reasonable ease. We both discovered that you have to use the PURGE command after reading each message, otherwise your messages are never deleted, and you're charged for storing them.

For a year, each of us faithfully typed "PURGE" after reading each message, and iNet (or Envoy) faithfully responded "Purged." Then, a couple of weeks ago, I purged a message and discovered that it had failed to record properly in my copy buffer. "No problem," I thought to myself, "iNet has an UNPURGE command that allows you to retrieve messages which have been purged in the last 24 hours." So I tried UNPURGE and was told that there were no messages to unpurge. This was strange, since it was only a few minutes since iNet and I had gone though our "PURGE"-"Purged" dialog. I tried a "SCAN ALL," and discovered to my horror 116 messages in my storage area! iNet had been lying to me when it said "Purged"; it had actually been squirreling away messages unbeknownst to me. I had my colleague check his storage area, and he found 96 messages there which he had thought he'd purged. A check on both our iNet statements shows a gradually increasing storage charge over the past year, increasing at a low enough rate that neither of us had noticed it. Between us, we'd been billed over $500 dollars for storing messages that we had every reason to believe had been purged.

I sent a report of this immediately to the so-called Customer Assistance Centre (which only operates Monday-Friday, 9-5, unlike the customer service centres of CompuServe and GEnie, which operate 7 days a week). They phoned me back (don't believe in Email, I guess!) and claimed that the manual said that Envoy automatically puts a copy of any message you reply to in your storage area. "It says so right in the manual," she said. "Where?" I asked. "On page ###," she said. "My manual doesn't have a page ###," I said. "It's in the Envoy 100 manual," she said. "I don't have the Envoy 100 manual... all you ever sent me is the iNet 2000 manual," I said. "It's in there, too, on page....(long long pause, pages flipping in the background, then in a very small voice)...it doesn't seem to be there." I asked about a refund. "I'm just a clerk, I don't have the authority to do that." She referred me to my customer service representative, who sloughed me off onto the billing inquiry number with amazing speed. I've now talked to a couple of people there over the last couple of weeks, but they're still looking into my service record...

My colleague and I discovered this problem largely because we are fairly heavy users of the system. I suspect there must be hundreds of other users out there who haven't noticed the slowly mounting storage charges on their monthly accounts. If you use iNet, I strongly suggest you do a "SCAN ALL" and check your accounts.

I end with a quote from the iNet manual: "The iNet 2000 service is fully supported by Telecom Canada staff who are available to assist you if you have any questions or concerns." I should have known!

There is a happy ending for my iNet article. They are going to credit my account for the storage charges, and rewrite the manual! Apparently the problem was that I often exit from the message area right after purging my messages, and this causes iNet/Envoy to assume that I might still want them, so it unpurges the purged messages. Apparently a single carriage return at the "Action?" prompt is sufficient to tell the system I'm done with the message, and quitting should only be done from the "Command?" prompt. They actually had someone monitor the line while I logged on today...my most recent threat to complain to the CRTC seems to have finally got me some results!

NEW APPLE II BBS PROGRAM IMMINENT

According to LOGIC member and former Maple Orchard editor Jim Ferr, version 4.0 of his Apple II BBS program *Warp Six BBS* is to be released for sale very soon. The new version will include XModem up/download capability and should operate on most Apple II computers, including the II Plus, IIe, enhanced IIe, and IIgs. We understand that Jim expects to distribute the program himself, and that a demonstration version will be available by disk and from a number of services and BBS's.

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THE ADOBE WEED

BY DOUG MILES

Are Apple and Microsoft trying to plow Adobe under? Whether Adobe gets buried or is just digging in, its future looks muddy. That affects you and me, especially if we use PostScript applications and printers.

A joint Apple and Microsoft press release dated Sept. 19, 1989 announced a technology swap involving Apple's new non-PostScript outline font technology, and printer software developed by Bauer Enterprises, a San Jose company acquired by Microsoft in July. According to Apple CEO John Sculley, "Apple's innovative image font technology is emerging as the foundation for desktop computing in the 1990s," a function now held by Adobe PostScript.

Skirting the subject of Adobe's innovation, Bill Gates, Microsoft Corporation chairman and CEO said, "Apple has really led the way in enhancing the use of font technology in desktop platforms." True, as far as it goes. Apple seeded Adobe's beginnings with money, as they've done with many small companies, hoping for a crop to come up. When the ripe fruit of Adobe's efforts - PostScript - fell into their laps, Apple served it up with enthusiasm.

And just in time, too. Back in 1985, the Macintosh was in big trouble and Apple was hurting. The Mac was regarded by corporate business as an oddity, allowed in reluctantly by the back door, if at all. "It's not IBM-compatible," they said. Mac sales were flat and it was hard to evangelize developers. If that weren't enough trouble, a battle of epic proportions was raging within Apple between Steve Jobs and John Sculley for control of the company.

PostScript was a breakthrough development, making the LaserWriter possible. The little green shoot of Desk-Top Publishing sprouted. Apple recognized a new cash crop when it saw one, and frantically watered and fertilized the field hoping for a harvest to feed the multitudes and sell Macs. It grew and grew and grew — beyond their wildest expectations. First there was MacPublisher, then Ready,Set,Go! and PageMaker, and Cricket Draw with fountains. Laser printers and typesetters! Fontographer and its Bezier curves! Business sat up and took notice. What a bumper crop! Now Apple was frantic to bring it all in, to grow themselves to meet the load.

All because of that seed money from Apple in 1984. Adobe reaped huge benefits too, growing like a weed. Most of its early revenue came from Apple as license fees for the Postscript interpreter and fonts built into each LaserWriter, from $1000 to $2000 per unit. By July, 1989, Apple's original $2.5 million investment in Adobe had blossomed to about $90 million.

Adobe has broadened its market to include computers other than Apple's. It licensed PostScript to other companies, developed more powerful PostScript interpreters for third-party printers, and built an impressive collection of PostScript typefaces using proprietary techniques. Now it's moving into the area of system software with Display PostScript to control what is displayed on a computer monitor. Steve Job's NeXT adopted Display PostScript, but Apple rejected it, an early public indicationof a split between Apple and Adobe.

Apple wants to maintain tight in-house control over its system software, aware of how the IBM PC's open MS-DOS operating system encouraged clones. Display PostScript would be just too intrusive of Apple's prerogatives. And, come to think of it, maybe Adobe PostScript is too powerful an influence; too important to leave to an outside company. Apple took steps.

In May, Apple announced that it was developing a PostScript clone, presumably to free itself from the Adobe license fees and become more competitive in the widening printer market. It also announced development of its own outline font technology that would allow it to largely avoid PostScript, while retaining most of the benefits of both it and Display PostScript. An industry analyst said there's no way this development could be construed as positive for Adobe.

In July, word came that Apple planned to sell its Adobe stock, amounting to 16.5% of all outstanding shares. Conflicts of interest, it said; goals no longer in common. Pundits now said the move had been obvious, with only the timing in question.

But could Apple successfully pull off its rejection of PostScript after tending its fertile fields for so long? Wasn't PostScript healthy enough to weather this storm, leaving Apple out in the cold? Maybe, but Apple can play rough: It set out to replant the field with a different crop.

In September, 1989, two rich farmers, Apple and Microsoft, set aside other differences to join forces in grabbing Adobe acreage. Microsoft will spread Apple's font technology in the IBM fields, mostly containing complacent Hewlett-Packard LaserJets, forestalling further Adobe migrations in that direction. This is welcomed by business folk who foresee easier interchange of formatted documents over the Apple-IBM fence. With this powerful support and Microsoft's acquired printer software, Apple will try to dislodge Adobe from its current grounds.

This also may be construed as a strike against Steve Jobs, whose NeXT depends on PostScript (now a dead-end technology?) for printing and display. And an attack on other PostScript licensees too. But they probably have mixed feelings. They've been unhappy at Adobe's high license fees, and at the same time its high-handedness in keeping secrets giving it an "unfair" advantage. After all, Adobe had supposedly placed PostScript in the public domain.

So what do we consumers do? Sit back and enjoy. We'll probably have an even more nourishing diet however it turns out. Don't do anything rash, like dumping your PostScript printer at a low price. What about buying a PostScript printer or software? Sure, that's really the conservative choice now. Even if Apple is massively successful in its current efforts, PostScript is too well entrenched to be rooted out entirely. And Adobe is countering with disclosure of its PostScript secrets and a partial implementation of Display PostScript for the Mac. Adobe Type Manager (ATM) displays Adobe's PostScript fonts on the Mac's screen and prints them on QuickDraw printers.

Treated by Apple and Microsoft as a noxious weed, Adobe is in for some painful times, but the new openness of DTP type technology and the competitive richness that is unfolding will be healthy for us consumers.

MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1989
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COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION

BY GLEN DENYER

The theme for this issue of Maple Orchard is telecommunications, so I will look at what has been done in this area from the vantage-point I have working for the City of North York Board of Education.

In actual fact, there really is not a lot going on. To be sure, in North York we have a bulletin board service called CIEBBS, established by the people in our Computers in Education Department. (In fact, one of the members of LOGIC, Dierk Neugebauer, is a member of that department.) As far as I know, this board is the first of its kind in the Metropolitan Toronto area if not the entire country, and for this a number of people should be congratulated. Its sysop is Rob Brown, and the board number is 886-9679. If you are involved in education, I believe that you would be welcome to join. The board has a number of special interest groups such as an English Teachers group, Students Group, and a Hypercard Users' Group (run by Dierk, I believe). There is a good library of files, even if nothing like the one LOGIC offers, and the board is constantly updated with news of interest to educators and computer buffs. I haven't looked at the membership list for quite a while but I would guess that, with students' names included, the list would have over 200 members. A great deal has gone into making this service attractive and useful. And yet it simply is not used as much as one might expect.

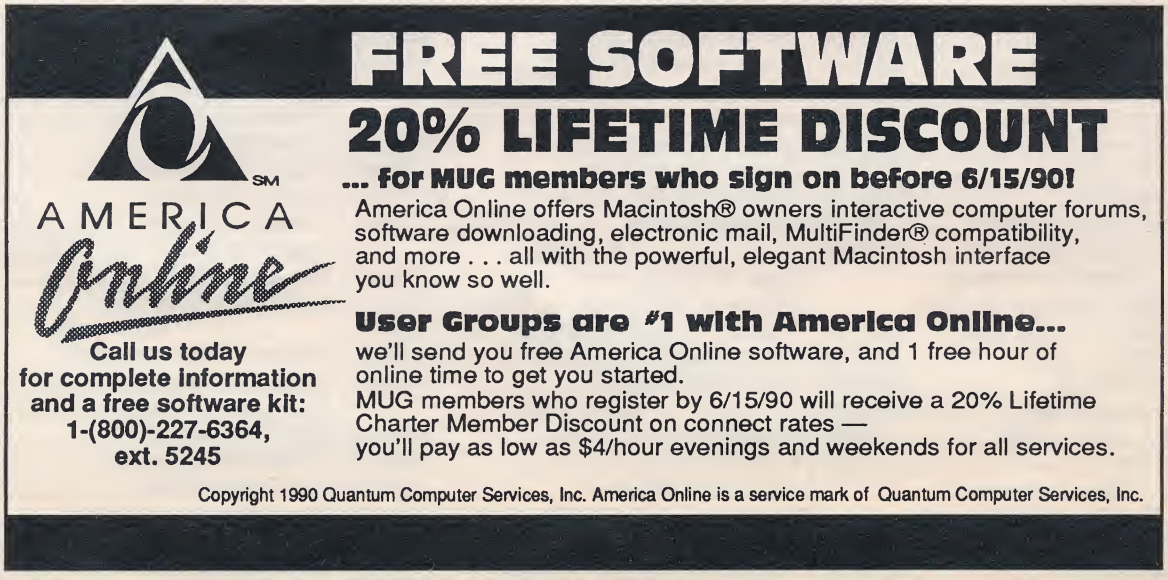
Tto give you anidea of how often people log on, the last time I used it (today) I was told that I was caller number 6088 and that it was my 350th call. What this means is that, even though I represent less that 1/2 of 1% of the membership, I have accounted for 5% of the total activity of the board. In fact, it was not too long ago that another teacher from Westview and I accounted, between us, for 20% of the calls logged on the system. Today, when I checked the messages section of the North York English Leadership Council conference section, there were only two new messages in over a month, and most of the postings still dated back to before the summer.

Why is the system so underused? Why is all the work of the dedicated few who set it up meeting with such a lack of response? Money, time, inertia, fear, obstinacy, lack of exposure, lack (until recently) of professional development opportunities - all contribute in some measure to a situation where a mechanism of great potential for sharing and growth is left largely unexplored.

And for this, the private sector must take some of the blame. Take Apple products, for example. Apple, as far as I can see, has stopped pushing the Macintosh Plus. Instead, it is flogging the higher priced SE and Macintosh II series, thereby missing out on the most lucrative market left untapped: education. It is missing out on the market because most teachers, at least those with families, cannot afford to buy an Apple system. A minimum configuration of Mac Plus, 20 meg hard drive, printer and 1200 baud modem will cost over $3,000, a price that doesn't even include any software, and teachers cannot deduct the price from their income as can some people in the private sector. I don't know if teachers deserve the general reputation they have for being cheap (even though a few experiences having drinks after work with my colleagues convinces me that there is some substance behind the perception), but even an open-handed person would hesitate to invest that kind of personal money in a system that was used mostly for work, and one that could not hope to compete with Nintendo or Seaga for entertainment value.

Apple's marketing strategy is guided by corporate narcissism and short-sightedness, and IBM or any of the others are no better. If only Apple would see the value of offering, at a decent cost, a basic Macintosh-type computer with built-in hard drive, 1200 baud modem and capability to handle fax. If only it would forget egos and stop trying to outdo the Immaculate Big Man of the computer world, then it might see the potential profit (in dollar as well as human terms) of designing an affordable home computer for the average home so that it just might find its way into the classroom.

(P.S. If you wish to sample two more boards, Kathy Aubrey has helped the kids at A.Y. Jackson set one up. Call it at 395-3698. And I've learned that the kids at Vanier now have a board. Call 886-9679. Give both boards a call and give the kids some support.)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HEADS IN THE SAND: The Ethics of Editing Digitized Photographs

BY TOM PITTMAN

Not too long ago the picture editors of several newspapers got together to discuss the ethics of digital picture editing. I think it was a waste of time.

As much power as big Macintosh workstations with 24-bit color digitized image editing brings to the news publisher, and with it the ease of subtly altering photographs so that they seem to show something other than what actually happened, I really don't think the ethical problems have changed all that much.

Publishers, writers, and photographers have always had a moral obligation to tell the truth in a balanced way, and that has not changed with the advent of high-tech hardware and software.

Publishers, writers, and photographers have always had the ability to alter the message presented, so that it grossly or subtly distorts the truth, and that also has not changed with the advent of high-tech hardware and software.

What has changed is that it is now easier and less expensive to alter the message in a medium that has always seemed pretty objective. I say "seemed" because photographs are no more objective than text, even without retouching. And retouching has always been possible, though a bit tedious and expensive before Macs. Just last month I saw a picture in an ad that claimed it was an "unaltered" photograph, though I could easily see that the lighting source on the front of the object was different than the lighting that cast a shadow on the background. Judging from the shading of the shadow, I'd guess that it was hand-painted (not even digitized). As a former photographer I am somewhat more sensitive to such subtleties than the average reader, but with increasing sophistication of the technology, I believe the readers (or at least the critics) will also become more sophisticated and able to detect the manual changes. But it does not really matter that much, for two reasons.

First, the editors who will be most tempted to change the pictures are still human, and they still have to live with themselves. Even the most black-hearted of newsmen like to think of themselves as basically good. More than that, if a newspaper prints a picture that has been so altered that it badly misrepresents an event, the competitor media will quickly pick up the story and the fellow will have trouble finding another job — except maybe with an ad agency, but we all know how much to believe the ads. Once in a while you come across a subject where all the media show the same bias, so competition is of little help. Fortunately, those occasions are few enough that the editors will not be in the habit of gross alterations; they are likely to pass up the few opportunities where they can get away with it just because they are few.

That does not mean you will see only unaltered photographs. No, only that the changes will generally not change the message being communicated. When it's easy to take out a telephone pole in the background to make the subject more visible, you can be sure the telephone poles will begin to mysteriously disappear from the news photographs. Like the shadow in the ad I saw, small changes in the picture to enhance its overall impact.

The real misrepresentation has nothing to do with a pixel here, a shadow there. You see, an editor has no obligation to show you any particular scenes at all. Nor has the photographer any obligation to photograph them from any particular angle. Nor the writer to write about them. Try to find an honest presentation of the Tienanmen Square massacre in a Chinese paper. The Chinese officials have the power and incentive to cover up what happened, and they did not need to alter any photographs to do it. In the Western press there is little incentive to cover up government misdeeds (after all, that sells papers), but the misdeeds of heavy advertisers tend to be treated considerably more kindly than the misdeeds of religious leaders. If you don't believe that, compare the Mac product reviews in the BMUG (I hate to call their telephone book a) newsletter with the reviews of the same products in MacUser or MacWorld. BMUG takes no ads, and their reviews need not be concerned about losing ad revenue. The commercial magazines will swear up and down that there is no influence, but the critics know very well who pays the bills — and it's not the reader.

A couple months ago I got to watch a demonstration of a new video product put out by ABC News. It's a HyperCard stack that drives a video disk player. The video disk contains dozens of short clips about the people and events in and around Jerusalem. It was very impressive, but I cannot help wondering if a half-hour of video images, presented in one-minute segments, could give a balanced view of what the issues really are. ABC editors searched thousands of hours of videotapes from their library to select what I am sure they consider a balanced perspective, but I doubt they asked PLO or Zionist representatives to review the collection. Sound bites of children deploring the ravages of war may be endearing; children shooting guns or throwing rocks at "the enemy" are not. Which do you think got included?

The worst part of the ABC video disk is that with its HyperCard control program, there is nothing to prevent a zealous teacher from arranging the facts presented in the schoolroom classroom to show a very badly distorted picture of the situation — even assuming that the ABC package is balanced and fair.

Does the power Digital Darkroom and other image-editing programs give to the news media to change photographs disturb me? Not very much. Indeed, that emerging technology will soon make it possible for more competition in the media. Very few people have the resources to publish a city newspaper, but a garage-shop newsletter, put together from low-budget underground sources, is (or soon will be) within the reach of anybody with an axe to grind. Many of those axes will be aimed at the wrong targets, and most of them will be junk, but there is ample opportunity for honest counterpoint to the mass-produced, artificially-flavored pablum we are stuck with today. I think that's exciting.

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ADDING NEW PRINTER CONTROL TO APPLEWORKS 3.0

BY STEPHEN BROWN

The AppleWorks program hasthree full-fledged applications, including a very good general-purpose word processor. The wordprocessor fits the needs of most users, but advanced users incessantly try to push AppleWorks to its limits. One of AppleWorks' missing features is a way to explicitly enter "raw" printer control commands to access all possible modes of one's printer. While it is true that some control commands can be inserted into a file as "printer options", certain types of printer control remain completely out of AppleWorks' reach. Further, most printer options (other than super/subscript, bold, underline, print time/date, print page number) cannot be inserted in the middle of a line.

With the release of AppleWorks version 3.0, there is now a new way to enter any control codes into a file. This involves the use of the new printer option called "Special Codes". Special Codes allow up to six user-defined printer-specific control commands to be inserted anywhere into a file via the Printer Options (apple-O) menu. Normally, a special code is defined for a certain function, for example, special code #1 could be "Italics Begin" and special code #2 could be "Italics End". This is very handy, it works nicely, and opens up some new possibilities.

Nevertheless, the insertion of "Special Codes" still has problems. Firstly, only six Special Codes can be defined, which forces you to select only your most favourite six of your printer's special features. Secondly, the function of each one of your "Special Codes" becomes peculiar to your copy of AppleWorks (specifically, the file called "SEG.PR"). Thus, what special code #3 does on one person's AppleWorks 3.0 will probably not be what that same code does on another person's AppleWorks 3.0. Keeping in mind that virtually all printer-commands are prefixed by the "Escape" character, I propose defining one of the Special Codes simply as the "Escape" character. This has a great deal of potential, because it means that "Escape" can easily be sent to the printer in conjunction with the other characters that make up a command.

There are a few limitations with this method. Immediately noticeable is that characters that are intended to control the printer will show up on the screen, and will look like nonsense. They may also subtly affect printed-line length. For this, I suggest sticking the codes in after the file has been completely edited, then "fudging" things to make them perfect. The other potential problem stems from the fact that AppleWorks (or any other word processor, for that matter) is unaware of what the printer is actually doing. Thus, if you increase the number of characters per inch by inserting an "Escape" code, AppleWorks will merrily count the number of characters per line as if nothing had changed, and will inevitably end up printing something mildly strange. It is therefore necessary to apply codes sparingly and carefully. Care is necessary to ensure that the correct code is used. Sloppy editing could even put the printer into bit-graphics mode in the middle of a sentence!

Making "Escape" into a special code means that any printer command that does not require non-printing characters (eg. all control codes from 0 to 26, 28 to 31, and 127) are available. Again, I cannot overemphasize that if you aren't careful in which characters you use following the "Escape" when you print your file, the printer may give you surprising (and undoubtedly undesirable) results. I discovered this the hard way while preparing this article.

Depending on the printer, there are many things that printer codes can do. Let's say that you wanted to emphasize the importance of a word in the middle of a line by doubling its width. After consulting your printer manual, you may discover (especially if you have an Epson compatible printer) that the command for initiating double-width print is "Escape W1" and the command for cancelling double-width print is "Escape W0". To make the word "double" double-width, you would type ^W1double^W0, where the carat would be inserted as the appropriate Special Code, and would show up as an "Escape". That's all there is to it!

But what of compatibility problems with other AppleWorks 3.0 users who might use the same special code for something else? In an attempt to establish a standard, I boldly suggest that everyone use the same Special Code for "Escape". For no particularly important reason at all, I suggest that Special Code #5 to be used. To install all your printers' Special Code #5 as an "Escape", do the following.

Insert your AppleWorks version 3.0 program disk. (It will be needed when AppleWorks wants to save the changed configuration.)

From the Main Menu:

•Press 5	(Other Activities)
•Press 6	(Select Standard Set tings for AppleWorks)
•Press 6	(Specify Information about your printer(s))
•Press 4 to 6	(Change Printer Specifications for printers 4 to 6, if 3 printers are defined)

For each printer:

•Press 5	(Printer Codes)
•Press 5	(Special Codes)
•Press 5	(Code #5)

When asked to type a name, type "Escape", if it isn't already that. AppleWorks will prompt you with "Code 5: Current Control Characters are" "Is this okay? Yes/No". Press N.

When asked to enter new printer code, press the "esc key once". Then hold down the Apple button and press return.

Then press the "esc" key, sufficient times to return to the main menu. The change to configuration will be saved.

Using this method, the AppleWorks word processor becomes even more powerful and versatile. I have included a short list of printer commands in the accompanying table for some common printers, and what they would look like in an AppleWorks file. The secret here is to experiment in order to make your Apple II and AppleWorks 3.0 into the peak performers they were meant to be.

Printer Commands for Appleworks

Note: ^ refers to Special Code #5, defined as "Escape"

For the Epson FX80 and compatibles:

^W1	Double Width Begin
^W0	Double Width End
^4	Italics Begin
^5	Italics End
^E	Emphasized Begin
^F	Emphasized End
^G	Double Strike Begin
^H	Double Strike End
^p1	Proportional Spacing Begin
^p0	Proportional Spacing End

For the Epson LQ2500 and compatibles: FX80 commands, plus:

^x1	Select Letter Quality
^x0	Select Draft
^k0	Select LQ Bold PS Font
^k1	LQ Sans Serif Font
^k2	Select LQ Courier Font
^k3	LQ Prestige Font
^k4	Select LQ Script Font
^t1	Graphic Character Set
^t0	Italic Character Set
^6	Graphic Set 1
^7	Graphic Set 2
^w1	Double Height Begin
^w0	Double Height End

For the IBM ProPrinter X24 and compatibles, FX80 commands (except Italics), plus:

^k0	Select LQ Bold PS Font
^k1	LQ Sans Serif Font
^k2	Select LQ Courier Font
^k3	LQ Prestige Font
^k4	Select LQ Script Font
^_1	Overlining Begin
^_0	Overlining End
^P1	Proportional Spacing Begin
^P0	Proportional Spacing End
^6	Graphic Set 1
^7	GraphEscape" into a spe cial code means

NEW APPLE II HIGH-SPEED SCSI CARD ANNOUNCED

Editor's Note: *The following is a press release from Apple Computer Inc. which is reprinted here without comment. Prices quoted are in U.S. dollars.*

CUPERTINO, California—March 15, 1990—Apple Computer, Inc. today announced a new high-speed card that moves information up to 10 times faster between Apple II personal computers and peripheral devices, such as hard disks and CD-ROM drives. The new Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card provides the fastest data throughput available for Apple IIe and Apple IIGS users, and is compatible with all small computer system interface (SCSI) peripherals.

Customers who use the new Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card with a SCSI peripheral extend their computer's performance. For example, customers using large applications stored on a hard disk drive, such as AppleWorks GS, or any large files, will see a significant speed improvement when launching programs, as well as opening and saving files.

The new Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card provides faster data transfer primarily because of a new feature called direct memory access (DMA) data transfer. Data is transferred directly between the computer's memory and the SCSI peripheral, with minimal interaction from the computer's microprocessor. The result is improved data transfer performance. With the new high-speed card, data transfers at a rate of up to 1MB per second on the Apple IIGS computer, and at a rate of up to .5MB per second on the Apple IIe computer. In addition to DMA, the SCSI manager and firmware have been improved and also contribute to the increased performance.

Compatible with all SCSI peripherals, the Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card requires only that device-specific applications and drivers be installed on the system. The card ships with drivers and applications for hard disk and CD-ROM drives, allowing users to take advantage of these devices immediately. Device drivers for the tape backup drive and scanner will be made available to developers, and users will be able to take advantage of these devices as applications are developed.

Another feature of the card is an onboard terminator, which simplifies setup when connecting SCSI peripherals to the computer. Previously, the Apple II SCSI Card required users to understand rules regarding placement and quantity of terminators between SCSI devices. With the new card, users simply place one terminator at the end of the chain of SCSI devices.

The Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card also includes improved hard disk utilities. These utilities make it easy to handle hard disk management tasks such as data backup, disk partitioning and disk verification. The partition and verify utilities take advantage of the improved firmware commands for hard disk drives. The backup utility is now able to handle the resource forks that are part of the IIGS files. Because these are ProDOS utilities, they can be used by both Apple IIe and Apple IIGS users.

The Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card works on an Apple IIGS or an Apple IIe Enhanced (with the 65C02 microprocessor). The Apple IIGS requires a 3.5-inch disk drive, while the Apple IIe requires either a 5.25- or a 3.5-inch disk drive. Both require a device with a SCSI port, appropriate SCSI cabling and one SCSI terminator.

The suggested retail price of the Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card is $185 CDN, part number A0220LL/A.

THE TRANSWARP II ACCLERATOR:
a funny thing happened ...

BY LARRY BEAM

A funny thing happened while I was writing this review: The product was discontinued. Within six weeks of introducing the new Transwarp II 7 MHz accelerator for the 8-bit line of Apple II computers, Applied Engineering has been forced to withdraw the product from the market. Having used Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) technology supplied by the manufacturer of the RocketChip, Bits & Pieces Technology; a legal decision in favour of Zip Technology late in November 1989, effectively killed both RocketChip and Transwarp II, in a single stroke.

So you're wondering why this I finished the review? Even before Applied Engineering discontinued the Transwarp II, it had started work on it successor, the Transwarp III. The Transwarp III will run at 8 MHz, upgradeable to 12 MHz, and is scheduled to be released by the end on March 1990. Except for the difference in speed, and the fact that it will be upgradeable, I have no reason to believe that the features of the Transwarp III will be any different than those of the Transwarp II. So, don't think of this as a review of a discontinued product, but rather as a sneak preview of the Transwarp III.

With the January issue of inCider/A+, Applied Engineering announced the retirement of its Transwarp accelerator card and the birth of the newest member of the family, the Transwarp II. More than just a faster version of its predecessor, the Transwarp II is closely related to the Transwarp GS, having inherited its speed, power-up diagnostics, built-in control panel and fast RAM caching system.

The Transwarp II can be installed in any 1-7 slot of an Apple II, II+, or IIe, including slot 3 of an Apple IIe, without interfering with the built-in 80 column software. When comparing the Transwarp II with an accelerator which replaces the 65C02 chip on the Apple II mother board, having to occupy an expansion slot may be considered a disadvantage. Unless you own an Apple IIc, this disadvantage is far outweighed by the fact that the Transwarp II is an Applied Engineering product.

The Transwarp II runs almost twice as fast as the original Transwarp, a cool 7 MHz. And I mean COOL: After having it in my Apple IIe for several days with the lid on and no fan, the Transwarp II was one of the coolest cards in the computer. I suspect that it got as hot as it did because it was located right next to my Prometheus internal modem, which puts out a lot of heat. I'm told by Jeff Holcomb, of Applied Engineering, that the Transwarp II draws about 300 mA of power, compared to the 900 mA required by its predecessor, and between 40 and 90 mA required by the ZipChip and RocketChip. The low power consumption of the Transwarp II is the result of a complete redesign of the card. There are about half as many chips on the Transwarp II as there were on the original. On-board RAM has been reduced from 256K to 8K, without reducing its ability to accelerate both main and auxiliary memory of an Apple IIe. In fact, it can accelerate up to 1.5MB of RamWorks-style bank-switched auxiliary memory, using a caching technique similar to that used by the Transwarp GS, ZipChip and RocketChip.

Like the Transwarp GS, the Transwarp II contains built-in software, including a power-up diagnostics program which tests the card every time the computer is turned on, and a control panel which lets it be conveniently configured to your system setup.

The control panel, in conjunction with a bit of built-in non-volatile memory, eliminates the need to run a configuration program each time the computer is turned on, as is required for the ZipChip and RocketChip. This has also eliminated the need for DIP switches, which were required to configure the original Transwarp. The control panel, accessed by pressing ESCAPE, followed by CONTROL-RESET, places a six option menu on the screen: Set Speed, Slot Configuration, Miscellaneous, Save Configuration, About Transwarp II, and Quit.

The Set Speed option allows the Transwarp II to be set at Fast (7 MHz), Medium (3.5 MHz), or Slow (1 MHz) speeds, as well as being turned off completely. The Slot Configuration option allows the speed at which the Transwarp II operates when accessing individual expansion slots. The Transwarp II can be configured to access an expansion slot at either Fast (7 MHz) or Normal (1 MHz) speeds. The Miscellaneous option allows the power-up graphics and diagnostic test to be turned on or off, as well as setting the time delays or operating speeds used when generating sound, determining joystick position, following the receipt of an NMI (Non-Maskable Interrupt), and when the WAIT routine in the Apple II Monitor has been addressed.

The Save Configuration option allows the about settings to be permanently saved in the non-volatile memory. Settings which are made but not saved, are only in effect until you change them or turn the power off. This is quite handy if you only wish to change a setting for the current session.

If you press "1" when viewing the About Transwarp II option, you will be presented with some technical information about your system: the number of times the built-in non-volatile memory has been written to, the ROM revision date, memory cache size, computer type, processor speed, and the auxiliary memory size. From this screen, you can also generate the startup graphics by pressing "0". This has not been documented in the manual, as it sometimes scrambles the program that is executing at the time.

The Transwarp II has been designed to work with most standard peripheral cards, including memory expansion cards, modem and modem interface cards, printer interface cards, clock cards, 80 column cards, mouse cards, and most disk drive controller cards. Unlike the RocketChip, the Transwarp II is compatible with the RamFactor-type memory expansion cards. However, not all peripheral cards will function properly at the higher speed settings. The most common type of card that does not is the 5.25" disk drive controller card. The Transwarp II can compensate for this by slowing down to Normal speed (1 MHz), when it accesses a slot containing a speed sensitive peripheral card. By setting the slot speed to Normal in its built-in control panel, the Transwarp II will know which cards to slow down for.

Being a Direct Memory Access (DMA) device, the Transwarp II will not function

properly when other DMA devices, such as the Ohio Kache Multi-Kache card, or the Applied Engineering Z-80 Plus card, are installed in the same computer. The same situation exists with the ZipChip and RocketChip, as they are also DMA devices. To use the Transwarp II with the Multi-Kache Card, the non-DMA jumper must be set on the latter. To use the Z-80 Plus card, the Transwarp II must be turned off completely.

The ability to turn-off the Transwarp II will also come in handy if you are one of the many people running Merlin 16 on an Apple IIe. This requires a 65C802 CPU to be installed in the Apple IIe, and Applied Engineering have decided not to offer a 16-bit option for the Transwarp II. In fact, they have opted to solder the 8 MHz 65C02 CPU to the Transwarp II, preventing users from replacing the chip themselves.

The Transwarp II is compatible with virtually all Apple II+ and IIe 8-bit software. For some music programs and programs using a joystick as an input device, the associated time delays may have to be adjusted in the Transwarp II control panel, for them to function properly.

The Transwarp II can be installed in any slot, except Slot 0 of an Apple II or II+, and the Auxiliary Slot of an Apple IIe. For those requiring reassurance, the whole process is amply covered in the manual, which includes a step-by-step procedure and several photos.

Once the Transwarp II has been installed, configuring it to your system setup is very easy. After the computer has been powered-up, enter the control panel. Use the arrow keys to highlight the Slot Configuration option, and press RETURN. Again use the arrow keys to select a slot, and the SPACE BAR to toggle the setting between Fast and Normal. The Transwarp II comes from the factory with all slots, except 5 and 6, set to Fast. The manual provides little information on which peripheral cards will operate properly at the Fast setting, although it does provide some general guidelines, a sample system configuration, and a list of recommended settings for most Applied Engineering peripheral cards. The best strategy, though, is to set all slots, except those containing 5.25" disk drive controller cards, to the Fast setting, and then test each card to see if it functions properly. If it doesn't, just pop into the control panel and set the associated slot speed to Normal. I found that the only card that I have in my Apple IIe which refuses to operate at the Fast setting is my Mitac 5.25" disk drive controller card. My Grappler+ printer interface card, Prometheus 1200A-2 internal modem, Apple II Mouse card, Apple SCSI interface card, and Applied Engineering Timemaster II H.O. clock card all work very nicely at the Fast setting.

Once the slot speeds have been set, you may want to consider the Miscellaneous options. Here you are presented with six options: Startup Graphics, Startup Diagnostics, Sound, Joystick Delay, NMI Delay, and WAIT Delay. The first two let you turn off the power-up graphics and diagnostic test. The Sound option allows you to set the wait delay used when your computer generates sound. This should prevent your favorite music program from sounding distorted when operating at high speed. In addition to four delay settings, you have the option of turning off the sound altogether - handy for you late-night game players. The Joystick Delay option provides two delay settings, both of which seem to work equally well. The NMI (Non-Maskable Interrupt) Delay option provides two settings, for those of you who like to play with such things. Finally, the WAIT Delay option provides two settings, which determine whether or not a compensating delay is used, when the WAIT routine in the Apple II Monitor ($FCA8) is addressed. If the WAIT delay is turned off, some programs may not work properly, as their internal time constants may be distorted. The manual provides more information on each of these options, but the whole process of determining the correct setting is pretty much trial and error. In most cases you will not have to change any of the default settings.

When you have all of the options set to your liking, go back to the main control panel menu, cursor down to the Save Configuration option and press RETURN to save all of the settings in the non-volatile memory, so that they will not be forgotten when you turn off your computer.

I noticed that the OPEN-APPLE key didn't work as well as it had before. I was always in the habit of releasing the OPEN-APPLE key at the same time as the RESET key, when warm booting my computer. This technique no longer works reliably. I've found that with the Transwarp II installed, I must now hold down the OPEN-APPLE key until well after the RESET key has been released. Not a big deal, but still a bit disconcerting the first couple of times the computer refused to re-boot.

I also found that if I try to power-up my Apple IIe after it has been on for awhile, it will not boot, and a checker-board Low-Res pattern is displayed. Powering down and then up again always produces the same result. With a little trial and error, I found that pressing CONTROL-RESET gets the computer to continue its boot cycle. Other users have reported similar problems with both versions of the 8-bit Transwarp. The problem has been attributed to either a weak power supply, or having a 65C802 CPU installed in the computer.

It's as if the 8-bit Apple II accelerator industry were cursed, or something! Almost as soon as the Transwarp II hit the streets, there were stories of flaky or dead cards. The Transwarp II that has been living in my Apple IIe for the two month has shown no signs of going south (Texas), but several LOGIC members have received cards that were flaky, and problems have been reported by owners of the Transwarp II on GEnie. The problems include incompatibility with the SMT No-Slot-Clock, spontaneous switching to the 1 MHz speed setting, and just plain dead. Applied Engineering has addressed some of these problems by revising the ROM software.

Applied Engineering is offering the Transwarp II at the same list price as the original Transwarp, $169.00 US. Of course, the card can be purchased, at a discount from various US and Canadian mail order houses; I got my Transwarp II from Dandam Software Inc, for $209.00 CDN. This compares to the list price of $149.00 US and $199.00 US, for the 4 and 8 MHz ZipChips, respectively, and the list price of $189.00 US and $219.00 US, for 5 and 10 MHz RocketChips, respectively.

Yes, this was a very positive review, and I haven't changed my mind. I still have an Apple IIe that runs flawlessly at 7 MHz. And since Applied Engineering have announced that they are developing the Transwarp III, and the possibility of upgrading to it, I don't feel orphaned. Only time will tell if my optimism is justified. But for now, I'm happy. So, for those of you who missed the Transwarp II, you've only go a few weeks to wait. The Transwarp III will retail for $199.00 US.

Disk Library Update

Macintosh
New User Tips...
Product Review...
Feature Article...
Disk Library Update...

Macintosh Disks

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Effective May 1, 1990 the Macintosh Library numbering system will undergo a significant change. This is necessary in order that the Mac Librarian can maintain a proper catalogue of our collection as well as being beneficial in the archiving process of the older sections of the library. By removing unused numbers as well as numbers left out, the library can be maintained in a more efficient manner. There will be no new Mac library disks released until after May 1st. New members will not receive their Mac Library disk until then as well. The Macintosh committee appologizes to the membership for any inconvenience that this change may cause.

Please update your Mac Library disk catalog as follows:

Delete all references to disks numbered under the old system as Mac 104, Mac 148, Mac 150, Mac 161, Mac 167 and Mac 222 (not listed).

Please note that the number StackWare 25 has not been used. This number will be used in the next HyperCard Stack release as disk MSW0025.

The Library is renumbered in the following manner:

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 1 - Mac 103, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0001 - MAC0103.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 105 - 147, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0104 - MAC0146.

Disk numbered under the old system as Mac 149, is renumbered under the new system as MAC0147.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 151 - Mac 160, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0148 - MAC0157.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 162 - Mac 166, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0158 - MAC0162.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 168 - Mac 176, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0163 - MAC0171.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 177a/b/c/d, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0172 - MAC0175.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 178 - Mac 221, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0176 - MAC0219.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac 223 - Mac 270, are renumbered under the new system as MAC0220 - MAC0267.

Disks numbered under the old system as Mac II 1 - Mac II 18, are renumbered under the new system as MII0001 - MII0018.

Disks numbered under the old system as StackWare 1 - StackWare 50, are renumbered under the new system as MSW0001 - MSW0050.

Disks numbered under the old system as TN 1 - TN 6, are renumbered under the new system as MTN0001 - MTN0006.

REMEMBER that effective May 1, 1990 when ordering disks from the library or purchasing at the meetings, you must refer to the NEW numbering system when asking for your disks. Thank you for your co-operation.

Macintosh Committee April 3, 1990

Mark Sissons Director/Macintosh Committee Chairman

John Brennan Vice President/Macintosh Librarian

Morley Goddard Treasurer/Macintosh ~~Committee Assistant~~

MAC0257: February/90 System folder files and Applications

On this disk is a collection of rather nice System folder files and Applications. First, the latest version of Disinfectant 1.6 is on the disk in order to keep us all on top of the new viral strains of nVIR that have appeared. Also included are...DeskImation, an application for adding life to your folders. Easy Envelopes 1.5c the latest version of this DA that prints envelopes. WindowShade, a CDEV that allows you to open and close your windows just like a rollup windowshade. MacEnvy 2.0, the latest version of this CDEV with some nice enhancements. FunKey, a new INIT that allows you to access your installed F-Keys at anytime. SoundMaster V1.31, the latest version of this CDEV with a few bugs ironed out. ResMaster, a DA which functions like ResEDIT but in a DA form. I'm Batman a fun type of CDEV. After installation you simply type your name and it says 'I'm Batman'. Finally UnZip, an application for unpacking and converting 'ZIP' packed files from the MS-DOS world.

MAC0258: Bill's 1989 Excel Tax Templates

MAC0259: Andrew Tobias' Managing Your Money Demo

MAC0260: More II Demo

MAC0261: March/90 System Tools 6.04

MAC0262: March/90 Printing Tools 6.04

MAC0263: March/90 Utilities Disk One 6.04

MAC0264: March/90 Utilities Disk Two 6.04

MAC0265: March/90 Hermes Hermes is recently released BBS software based somewhat on WWIV. Although the documentation is somewhat limited, the technical support is good. Those who pay the registration fee now will receive the commercial release version, when it is ready, as a free upgrade.

MII0018: March/90 Solarian Solarian is an excellent arcade style shootem-up game requiring 256 colors on the Mac II.

MAC0266: April/90 System Tools 6.05

MAC0267: April/90 Printing Tools 6.05

MAC0268: April/90 Utilities Disk One 6.05

MAC0269: April/90 Utilities Disk Two 6.05

MAC0270: April/90 Utilities This set of system disks including the Network Installer were released with the Mac IIfx. According to Apple, several bugs in versions 6.0.3 and 6.0.4 have been fixed in this release and should be installed on all Macs. My informed sources say that this will be the last system release by Apple until V7.0

Apple II

New User Tips...
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ProDOS Disks

ProDOS-93

Avalon Message System Version 3.0 (3.5" Only) AMS is a complete BBS System written in ModemWorks. If you are interested to see what is involved in run your own BBS or just to see what is involved in writing a BBS program, this disk will get you started.

ProDOS-94

AppleNet Version 1.4 (3.5" Only) Here are SOME of the features of AppleNET version 1.4: THE SELECTION MENUS: Completely menu-driven, pop-up menus THE CONFIGURATION EDITOR: Completely menu-driven, pop-up menus, intelligent ProDOS path parsing, easy entry of data, even easier multiple choice selection, printer supporting, four screens of configurable information. THE USER EDITOR: Completely menu-driven, pop-up menus, intelligent creation of the user database, search options, easy maneuverability throughout user log, printer supporting, quick-validation option, complete (not partial) user information editor. MODULE EDITOR: Completely menu-driven, pop-up menus, intelligent ProDOS filename parsing, edits ALL FOUR modules in one program (no switching from program to program), printer supporting, "goof-proof" error checking, copying, insertions, deletions, sorting, and adding are all implemented. MESSAGE BOARDS: Up to 45 may be defined, complete security over reading and writing, several types of messages in each board (such as public, private, anonymous), maximum number of messages definable (up to 999 in each board), up to two moderators for each board may be defined, intelligent message threading, replying, deletion, and scanning. FILE BASES: Up to 45 may be defined, complete security over uploading and downloading, up to two moderators for each board may be defined, individual assigning of storage directories, file searches by key word, download time estimations. ONLINE PROGRAMS: Up to 45 may be defined, complete security on program operation. Nearly ANY Applesoft BASIC program can be used on-line. BULLETINS AND ARTICLES: Up to 45 may be defined, complete security on read access, intelligent page-pausing routine. BBS FEATURES: System log, menu-driven wait-for-call options, page bell toggling, caller alarms, easy chat interrupting, background tasks (change configurations, definitions, user status', and even take the user into BASIC and return as if nothing had happened, all while on-line!), hot-key menu-driven, -NO- possible way for the user to break into BASIC without being escorted by the SysOp, subscription system available.

GS Disks

GS-98

Telecommunications Disk #2

This disk contains a number of programs and utilities necessary for telecommunications. There are some files describing the BXY format, which is the packing standard used by the LOGIC Information System, CompuServe, GEnie, and others. DDD Pro is a packer, which is compatible with the old ProDOS and DOS 3.3 DDD packer programs, like Dalton. FAZ II allows you to easily change the primary type, auxiliary type, and access bits of any ProDOS file. It's useful if, say, you accidentally downloaded a binary file from a telecommunications service as a text file or some such thing as that. Generic Comm is a terminal program written by Matthew Montano. Generic Comm is a fast though, and to the point quick and dirty terminal program for general usage. In this current version it doesn't support things like: terminal emulations, protocol transfers, GS/OS interaction and file control, and fancy text editors (though I have some of these planned). But GenericComm v1.0 contains the following features: o 65,535 line scroll back o 255 item dialing list o support for 300,1200,2400,9600,19200bps operation o restartable and in-expressload format for fast loading and re-execution ShrinkIt is an utility program for archiving disks and files. With easy to use menus and powerful NuFX archiving features, anyone can use ShrinkIT in a matter of minutes. Dynamic LZW is used to achieve optimum compression in a relatively short period of time. SnowTerm emulates the Digital Equipment (DEC) VT100 and VT52 terminals. SnowTerm runs in the super high resolution graphics mode of the Apple IIGS and uses the desktop user interface. SnowTerm uses the graphics and color capabilities of the Apple IIGS to accurately emulate the VT100 terminal including bold and blinking character attributes, the line drawing character set, and double high and double wide characters. Although the VT100 implements a subset of the ANSI standard, the VT100 and SnowTerm do not implement the (so-called) ANSI color graphics used by some IBM oriented bulletin boards. Z-Link is a program for the Apple // that is small, fast, and powerful. It includes everything you'd expect from a good modem program including a text capture buffer, robust terminal emulation, and split-screen person to person chat mode. Z-Link can transmit and receive files using several protocols including XMODEM/Checksum, XMODEM/CRC-16, YMODEM/CRC-16, and YMODEM/Batch and is compatible with Ascii Express Pro and Mousetalk. The program runs on an Apple //c, //c+, enhanced //e, or //GS under ProDOS 8. Z-Link is shareware.

GS-99 Sound Smith Program and Music Disk #1

Sound Smith is a powerful music program that allows you to create music with up to 14 tracks. It has a Graphicial Music Player and the sound from this program is amazing. It will read MusicStudio files and is somewhat similar to Music Studio. This disk contains the following music files for use with Sound Smith: Axel F, Behind, Cambodia, End Theme, Garcon, and SLL 4.

GS-100 Sound Smith Music Disk #2

This disk contains the following music files for use with Sound Smith: Aldebaran, Amegas, Blizzard, Crystal Hammer, Dugger, Guetto 04, Moments in Love, and MusicStudio Demo.

GS-101 Sound Smith Music Disk #3

This disk contains the following music files for use with Sound Smith: FootLoose, File 52, Sinners, Soir.De.Pluie, Matt.Smood, Unita2, Vortex1, SleepWalk, Nougayork, and File 60.

Apple Introduces High-Performance Macintosh Products

Editor's Note: The following is a press release from Apple Computer Inc. which is reprinted here without comment. Prices quoted are in U.S. dollars.

SAN JOSE, California—March 19, 1990—Macintosh personal computing reached higher levels of power, breadth and usability today as Apple Computer, Inc. unveiled a collection of new, high-performance Macintosh products. The announcements include the following: Macintosh IIfx, the fastest and most responsive Macintosh yet developed; A/UX 2.0, a ground-breaking version of Apple's implementation of the UNIX operating system; and a new family of powerful display cards that set new standards of image quality and performance.

"Today's announcements add power and accessibility to the Macintosh product family," said John Sculley, chairman and chief executive officer of Apple. "Current Macintosh applications will become even more responsive, more brilliant, and more enabling. But, to us," Sculley added, "the real power of these new products resides in how they will extend the boundaries of what people can do with Macintosh. We expect today's announcements to inspire new kinds of applications, attract new kinds of customers, and ultimately enable new ways of using personal computers in the coming decade."

Macintosh IIfx The Macintosh IIfx is the fastest Macintosh yet developed. It runs up to twice as fast as the 25 MHz Macintosh IIci. This increase in performance derives from the careful integration of powerful new technologies, including the following: - A faster processor/memory subsystem: The Macintosh IIfx incorporates a 40 MHz 68030 processor/68882 coprocessor combination, a built-in, 32K Static RAM Cache and a new design called "latched writes"; - An intelligent input/output subsystem: The new system employs dedicated input/output processors and a Small Computer System Interface/Direct Memory Access Controller; - Richer expansion capabilities: The Macintosh IIfx includes an expansion slot tied directly to the processor in addition to its six industry-standard NuBus slots.

Apple has incorporated this new technology in a balanced and integrated fashion, maximizing the performance capabilities of each component. The Macintosh IIfx comes in an improved Macintosh II product design. All Macintosh II and IIx users can upgrade to the Macintosh IIfx through a logic board upgrade, also announced today.

A/UX2.0 A/UX 2.0 further extends the benefits of Macintosh to people who work with UNIX. A/UX 2.0 retains all the capabilities of previous A/UX releases and adds three major new features: - The Macintosh desktop: All the elements of the distinctive Macintosh interface—point-and-click simplicity, menu bars and familiar icons—have been incorporated into A/UX 2.0 even as it continues to support industry-standard UNIX. - UNIX, and X Window System and Macintosh applications: A/UX 2.0 users can run any number of UNIX, X Window System and Macintosh applications under A/UX 2.0 at the same time. - Macintosh & UNIX integration: A/UX 2.0 combines the full capabilities and benefits of both Macintosh and UNIX environments in one system.

Notably, the complete A/UX 2.0 package—off-the-shelf Macintosh applications, Macintosh hardware, A/UX and support—is available through A/UX-authorized Apple resellers worldwide.

Macintosh Display Cards The Macintosh Display Card 4.8, the Macintosh Display Card 8.24, and the Macintosh Display Card 8.24 GC comprise Apple's new family of display cards for modular Macintosh systems. Collectively, they raise the standard of what people can do with graphics on a Macintosh. The Macintosh Display Card 4.8 is a versatile video card that supports a wide range of monitors and graphics capabilities. The Macintosh Display Card 8.24 brings brilliant 24-bit color to all modular Macintosh users. The Macintosh Display Card 8.24 GC incorporates all the standard features of the 8.24 card and greatly increases (up to 30 times faster) the responsiveness of all Macintosh applications—especially graphics-intensive ones.

Taken together, this new family of display cards brings the following benefits to modular Macintosh users: - Easier access to high-resolution color: The new family of display cards brings the impact and possibilities of 24-bit color and true gray scale to all modular Macintosh users in thousands of applications. - Improved image quality and performance: The new family of cards enables modular Macintosh users to utilize photo-quality images, render complex designs and create altogether new uses for the Macintosh. - Greater graphics extensibility: All the new cards are self-configuring, work on all Macintosh monitors and utilize the same familiar Macintosh interface for all graphics applications.

The Macintosh IIfx and the new family of display cards will be available worldwide through all authorized Apple resellers. A/UX 2.0 will be available through all A/UX-authorized Apple resellers. The Macintosh IIfx and Macintosh Display Card 8.24 are available immediately. A/UX 2.0 and the Macintosh Display Cards 4.8 and 8.24 GC will be available this summer.

Macintosh IIfx - 4MB/SuperDrive version, $8,969 - 4MB/80MB internal hard drive version, $9,869 - 4MB/160MB internal hard drive version, $10,969

A/UX 2.0 (Prices will be announced at a later date. Configurations may vary outside the U.S.) - A/UX 2.0 on Apple CD-ROM disk - A/UX 2.0 on 800K floppy disks - A/UX 2.0 on a 40MB Apple Tape Cartridge - Preinstalled on Macintosh IIci 4MB/80MB internal hard drive version - Preinstalled on Macintosh IIcx 4MB/80MB internal hard drive version - Preinstalled on Macintosh IIfx, 4MB/80MB internal hard drive version - Preinstalled on a Macintosh 80MB external hard drive

Macintosh Display Cards - Macintosh Display Card 4.8, $648 - Macintosh Display Card 8.24, $899 - Macintosh Display Card 8.24 GC, $1,999

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Please complete this form and bring to a LOGIC meeting or mail to:

LOGIC
PO Box 696, Station B
Willowdale, ON
M2K 2P9
(416) 323-0828

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Phone: ( )_____
Street: _____ Apt:_____
City: _____ Province/State:_____
Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

LOGIC is an Apple User Group for Apple II and Macintosh users. Membership in LOGIC includes our bi-monthly magazine Maple Orchard, and 40 minutes per day access, including download privileges, on the LOGIC Information System. In addition, membership entitles you to free admission to both Special Interest Group and regular monthly meetings (both Apple II and Macintosh) and the ability to purchase LOGIC Public Domain Library diskettes. LOGIC is non-profit and is incorporated in the province of Ontario.

(check one only) Membership includes Maple Orchard

New Membership:	**1 year**	☐	**$45.00**
	2 years	☐	**$80.00 (Special)**
Membership Renewal:	**1 year**	☐	**$40.00**
	2 years	☐	**$75.00 (Special)**
Maple Orchard only:	**6 issues**	☐	**$20.00**

Are you renewing your LOGIC membership?

For a renewal, please enter your membership #: _____

Please send my catalog disk on (circle one) 3.5" 5.25" diskette

Method of Payment

(check one) Sorry, other credit cards not accepted. Please make cheques payable to LOGIC.

☐ **VISA** **VISA Card #:**_____ **Expiry:**_____

or

☐ **CHEQUE (enclosed)** **Signature for VISA:** _____

Applying for or renewing your membership? Please answer the following:

Make and model of your computer(s): _____
Types of applications you most often use: _____
What kind of modem do you have (if any) Eg. Hayes 2400: _____
Are you interested in downloading software from our Bulletin Board System? Yes: ☐ No: ☐
What computer magazines or publications do you read? _____
How would you rate your computing skill level? Novice: ☐ Intermediate: ☐ Advanced: ☐
What commercial online systems, if any, do you subscribe to?_____
Would you volunteer to help LOGIC and if so in what areas?_____
_____
Tell us what other services you'd like to see LOGIC provide: _____
Please use the rest of this space to make any comments, suggestions or criticisms: (don't pull any punches)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE: VISA: CHEQUE: MBR.#: EXPIRY:
D.B. DATE: VALIDATED: MAILED: LIB.DISK:

Attention: Logic Members

MCR Computer Exchange is offering fantastic savings on AppleandMS DOS products, peripherals and software from our renovated premises on the second floor of 86 Parliament Street (enter by the centre door under the awning).

We buy and sell quality primary hardware; we have also received a new shipment of great software. Come down to 86 Parliament and browse around; if we don't have the hardware you're looking for, we'll get it for you.

This is only a partial list of new and used equipment we have in stock:

1000	Pac Paint	5.00	1109	Hypertape Backup	300.00
1001	Graphist Paint	50.00	1110	FX 20 Extrnal Drives	585.00
1002	Pixel Paint	50.00	1111	FX 40 Extrnal Drives	750.00
1005	MacPaint(Claris0)	75.00	1112	FX 60 Extrnal Drives	875.00
1003	Crystal Ball	15.00	1113	800K External Drives(New)	200.00
1004	C.A.T.	75.00	1114	FI/60 M2(MacII Drive)	800.00
1006	Power Station	20.00	1115	FI/150 M2(MacII Drive)	1400.00
1007	Color Chart	10.00	1200	Macintosh Plus Mice (Felix)	35.00
1020	Microsoft Mail	25.00	1201	20MG Rodime (External)	495.00
1021	Microsoft File	25.00	1300	45MG Rodime (External)	595.00
1022	Microsoft Multiplan	25.00	1400	60MG Rodime (external)	795.00
1023	Microsoft Excel	295.00	1401	140 meg Internal HD	995.00
1024	Microsoft Power Point	295.00	`405	Apple TapeBackup	350.00
1025	Microsoft Write	150.00	1410	Corvus 6meg Apple II HD/w Card	75.00
1026	Microsoft Word	290.00	1411	Corvus 20 meg AppleII HD/w Card	150.00
1027	pfs: File & Report	20.00	1412	AST Turbo Scanners Sheet Feed	150.00
1028	Ensemble	15.00	1413	Abaton Sheet Feed Scanner	150.00
1030	InSight Time Billing	50.00	1500	Phonenet	15.00
1031	Insight Inventory	50.00	1510	Apple Imagewriter II	425.00
1040	MacHyphen	10.00	1511	Kinetics Etherport II Card	300.00
1041	The Right Word	15.00	1512	Personal Laser Printer(GGC)	1195.00
1042	MacLightning	20.00	1600	Apple LaserWriter Plus Printer	2600.00
1100	Night Watch	10.00	1601	Nec Spinwriters 3510,1515	100.00
1101	Macserve	40.00	1602	Grappler/c/gs	75.00
1102	Laser Serve	40.00	1603	AST RamStack Boards	100.00
1103	ComServe	40.00	1604	IBM/PC/XT /20MG /640K/Mono	695.00
1104	Fastback	15.00	1610	IBM QuietWriters	280.00
1105	Suitcase II	15.00	1611	Apple II Clones	75.00
1106	Hypertutor	15.00	1620	Zenith Monitors	50.00
1107	Glue	5.00	1630	1 Meg Simms 70 ns	145.00
1108	Inlarge	5.00	1650	Apple(Felix)Mice	40.00
			1700	Apple II Hard Carry Cases	40.00

$

MCR Computer Exchange

86 Parliament St.
(on the 2nd Floor; enter by the door under the awning)
Toronto, Ontario, M5A 3X9 Tel# 366-2782 Fax 366-2929
New Hours : Mon - Fri 12 pm to 6 pm
Saturday by Appointment

From: LOGIC
P.O. Box 696, Station B
Willowdale, Ontario
M2K 2P9

To:

Kiyoshi Masuda
Apples B.C. Computer Soc.
P.O Box 80569,
MBR # 9090
Burnaby B.C. V5H 3X9

FIRST CLASS MAIL

AIRMAIL IF INTERNATIONAL

Attn. Postmaster: Address correction requested.

LOGIC Meetings

All meetings take place at North York Memorial Hall, Burgundy Room A (Level CL, below the library), 5110 Yonge Street, one block north of Sheppard and physically one block west of Yonge.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm with Disk Library sales (Public Domain and Shareware). From 7:00 to 7:30 at each Apple II meeting, there is an open session on Apple II Fundamentals, where members will be on hand to answer questions and solve problems. Announcements are made at 7:30 pm, and the main topic of each meeting begins afterward.

Tuesday, May 1, 1990
Macintosh Meeting
Multimedia

Tuesday, May 15, 1990
Apple II Meeting
Topic to be announced

Tuesday, June 5, 1990
Macintosh Meeting
Topic to be announced

Tuesday, June 19, 1990
Apple II Meeting
Topic to be announced

Note: topics are subject to change without notice.
Check the hotline (416-323-0828) or the LOGIC BBS for any changes.